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Kathleen McChesney, William Gavin
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PICK UP *Your Own* BRASS

LEADERSHIP
THE FBI WAY

KATHLEEN MCCHESENEY
& WILLIAM GAVIN

FOREWORD BY TOM PETERS



Potomac Books
Washington, D.C.

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Kathleen McChesney, William Gavin : Pick Up Your Own Brass: Leadership the FBI Way before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pick Up Your Own Brass: Leadership the FBI Way:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Successful Leadership Model By J. Botting I've been a friend of Kathleen McChesney and a fan of Bill Gavin for years as a fellow FBI agent and it comes as no surprise that the two of them conspired to produce a book on leadership. Both survived the long road of rigorous challenges and progressive responsibilities to become highly respected leaders in the FBI. Fortunately for the reader, they decided to share their valued experiences. It's amazing that the simplicity of picking up one's own shell casings on the firing range can form the basis for inspirational and successful leadership; but these two make it work. Each chapter, which begins with an entertaining FBI anecdote drawn from their FBI experiences over the years, both in the field and in the office, concludes with insightful leadership nuggets. Some are as common as demonstrating respect for your subordinates by learning their names, praising in public and criticizing in private. Others, like "The Action Imperative" and when the drive for perfection impedes organizational progress, encourage introspection and self examination. But the best part of this book is that it has a wide range of cross-over applicability to business, industry and government. The recommendations work for the private sector as well as for law enforcement. It's logical stuff, but it's also the stuff that makes the difference between success and failure for a leader. An entertaining read and as beneficial as a textbook, "Pick Up Your Own Brass, Leadership the FBI Way" is highly recommended for anyone interested in polishing as well as developing their leadership traits. James Botting, former FBI agent and author of "Bullets, Bombs and Fast Talk, Twenty Five Years of FBI War Stories".

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pick Up Your Own Brass - Leadership The FBI Way By Sally Eccleston, Author Pick Up Your Own Brass, with its fascinating human-interest stories of the FBI, and valuable insights into human behavior, is far more than a guidance book to effective leadership in a topnotch organization. Each chapter is thoughtfully laid out to teach valuable lessons by setting down memorable examples of the decision making process, and reinforcing the major points raised at the end of each anecdote. In doing so, this book is effectively instructional, but flows seamlessly like a fast-paced novel. In gaining the 'inside scoop' on leadership from the managers who worked at the highest level of the FBI organization, Kathy McChesney and Bill Gavin lay out the leadership traits necessary for an effective, cohesive unit in any organization, paralleling many of the traits that our founding fathers adhered to in governing: integrity, measured forethought, well-planned out action, prideful humbleness, healthy pliable ego, true love of leadership, cooperative spirit, calculated articulateness, and above all surrendering one's personal gain, acclaim, and hubris for the good of the whole. This book is not only for law enforcement institutions and business managers, but also for anyone who wants advice on how to lead effectively in any area of life--how to take direct charge when it's called for, but to reverentially step back and lead indirectly through capable and talented subordinates at other times; and, most importantly, to give credit where credit is due. The leadership examples set forth in this book, the basis of FBI success since the early 1900s, have been shown by vast experience to be effective strategies in keeping this country safe from criminal and terrorist elements. The authors should be commended for creating an eloquent and structured work comprising some very personal inside experiences of the FBI, both pros and cons, so that others may learn how to effectively lead.

Sally Eccleston Senior Editor and Author

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Must Read For Anyone In Business By Carol Livingston "Pick Up Your Own Brass" is an excellent and informative book. Being in business for myself I was very much interested in how an agency with such a professional reputation was able to manage their group of skilled investigators. I was hoping the book would be full of leadership tips that I could apply to my own business. I wasn't disappointed! While I enjoyed the stories/examples that went with the leadership tips at the end of each story, my main focus was on how I could broaden my leadership abilities. I put many of the tips into practice on my staff the very next day. Through this book I remembered what I had learned in college so many years ago. I learned once again about encouragement, about refraining from criticism and the most important lesson of all, that "without good leadership, an organization has no future--regardless of its size, mission, or resources." Thanks to the authors, Kathleen McChesney and William Gavin for this well written and informative book.

In FBI terms, leaders who pick up their own brass casings at the firing range are more effective than those who expect someone else to do it for them. To those at the Bureau, this small action speaks louder than words and is largely indicative of a person's overall management style. Through a host of real-life FBI stories, from the front lines to the back offices, Pick Up Your Own Brass: Leadership the FBI Way reveals the leadership qualities that have enabled the Bureau to successfully navigate through a century of war, espionage, organized crime, terrorism, fraud, and corruption. Offering fifty essential leadership lessons based off challenges that FBI officials have faced over the course of their careers, this book can help anyone--established leaders, aspiring leaders, minority leaders, and even accidental executives--who find themselves managing more than they imagined--build a culture of leadership.

Kathleen McChesney and Bill Gavin, both hugely credentialed FBI senior managers, detail how a diverse, unwieldy, bureaucratic, and public-spotlighted agency pulled and pushed itself to regain its place as the preeminent law enforcement agency in the world. This is a lesson plan for business and even for families. It's an indispensable how-to for corporate success--Frank Keating, former governor of Oklahoma and former

FBI special agent