What is claimed is:

1. A valve, comprising:

a valve body including a central passage, an annular valve seat surrounding the central passage and having a first central axis, a first end passage that extends from the central passage to a first fluid port, and a second end passage that extends from the central passage to a second fluid port; and

a valve closure subassembly assembled with the valve body and including a valve stem extending along the first central axis and a stem tip assembled with the valve stem by a stem connector and including an annular seal portion having a second central axis, the valve stem being axially movable from an open position permitting fluid flow between the first fluid port and the second fluid port to a closed position in which an annular seal portion of the stem tip engages the annular valve seat when a closing force is applied to the valve stem;

wherein when the first central axis is misaligned with the second central axis, the stem tip is pivotable about the valve stem to effect angular adjustment of the annular seal portion of the stem tip into uniform sealing engagement with the annular valve seat when the closing force is applied to the valve stem; and

wherein the stem connector comprises a socket disposed on the stem tip, a ball joint disposed on the valve stem and received in the socket for pivoting movement of the stem tip about the valve stem, and an annular retaining ring assembled with the stem tip in a counterbore surrounding the socket and including a flexible ball retaining inner peripheral web portion that engages a spherical surface of the ball joint to resist pivoting movement of the stem tip when the valve stem is in the open position.

2. The valve of claim 1, wherein when the valve stem is in the closed position, the annular seal portion engages the annular valve seat along a surface that is perpendicular to the first central axis.

3. The valve of claim 1, wherein the annular valve seat defines a planar surface that is perpendicular to the first central axis.

4. The valve of claim 1, wherein the ball joint is press fit against the socket to resist pivoting movement of the stem tip.

5. The valve of claim 1, wherein at least one of the ball joint and the socket is knurled to resist pivoting movement of the stem tip.

6. The valve of claim 1, wherein the valve closure subassembly comprises a spring biasing member that biases the valve stem toward the open position.

7. The valve of claim 1, wherein the annular seal portion of the stem tip comprises an annular seal insert retained in a groove in the stem tip.

8. The valve of claim 1, wherein the valve closure subassembly further comprises a hollow extensible member having a first end attached to the stem tip and a second end attached to the valve body.

9. The valve of claim 8, wherein the hollow extensible member comprises a bellows.

10. The valve of claim 8, wherein the hollow extensible member sealingly encloses the valve stem within the valve body.

11. The valve of claim 8, wherein the second end of the hollow extensible member is directly attached to a support ring assembled with the valve body.

12. The valve of claim 1, further comprising a valve actuator assembled with the valve closure subassembly and operable to apply the closing force to the valve stem.

13. The valve of claim 12, wherein the closing force is a first closing force, wherein the valve actuator is further operable to apply a second closing force to the valve stem, the second closing force being smaller than the first closing force, wherein the second closing force is sufficient to move the annular sealing portion into sealing engagement with the annular valve seat when the

first central axis is aligned with the second central axis, and wherein the second closing force is insufficient to effect angular adjustment of the annular seal portion of the stem tip into uniform sealing engagement with the annular valve seat when the first central axis is misaligned with the second central axis.

14. The valve of claim 1, wherein the stem connector is configured to resist pivoting movement of the stem tip when a pivoting torque of up to 1 in-lb is applied to the stem tip.

15. The valve of claim 1, wherein the stem tip is axially fixed with respect to the valve stem.

16. A valve closure subassembly comprising:

a stem tip including a socket and an annular seal portion;

a valve stem including a ball joint received in the socket for pivoting movement of the stem tip about the valve stem; and

an annular retaining ring assembled with the stem tip in a counterbore surrounding the socket and including a flexible ball retaining inner peripheral web portion that engages a spherical surface of the ball joint to resist pivoting movement of the stem tip.

17. The valve closure subassembly of claim 16, further comprising a support ring for attachment to a valve body, the support ring defining a central passage, and a hollow extensible member having a first end directly attached to the stem tip and a second end directly attached to the support ring.

18. The valve closure subassembly of claim 16, wherein the hollow extensible member comprises a bellows.

19. The valve closure subassembly of claim 16, wherein the annular valve seat defines a planar surface that is perpendicular to the first central axis.

20. The valve closure subassembly of claim 16, wherein at least one of the ball joint and the socket is knurled to resist pivoting movement of the stem tip.

21. The valve closure subassembly of claim 16, wherein the annular seal portion of the stem tip comprises an annular seal insert retained in a groove in the stem tip.

22. The valve closure subassembly of claim 16, wherein the stem connector is configured to resist pivoting movement of the stem tip when a pivoting torque of up to 1 in-lb is applied to the stem tip.

23. The valve closure subassembly of claim 16, wherein the stem tip is axially fixed with respect to the valve stem.