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(Smith/Blessey)
May 30, 1989
Draft Three
HIGH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL
WYCOTTE, PENNSYLVANIA
JUNE 19, 1989

President __, Faculty and Administrators, Parents, Students, Friends.

Let me thank you all for that very kind reception. And, in particular, I want to thank you, _____, for that gracious introduction.

Fact is, I have to admit that listening to your words of welcome, I was reminded of something one of our former Presidents said when he heard an introduction that even he considered generous.

"I only wish my parents could have been alive to hear that introduction," Lyndon Johnson told his audience. "My father would have enjoyed it. And my mother would have believed it!"

My friends, I'm enjoying it -- being at the magnificent success that is Cheltenham High School. And I know that you'll believe me when I say what a pleasure it is to join my soon-to-be fellow high-school graduates.

Of course, I also want you to enjoy today. Therefore, a promise: I will be brief. After all, you've worked and studied and struggled for four years, and now comes the hard part. Listening to a Commencement address.

~~My friends,~~ ^{AA} let me assure you: I do remember how it feels. For it was nearly half a century ago that I, too, listened to a high-school commencement ~~address~~ ^{speech} -- like you, as an undergraduate, about to receive my degree.

In high school, I loved History, English, and major league baseball [PAUSE] . . . not necessarily in that order. But most of all, I loved tomorrow. Its possibilities were soaring, infinite. Its horizons lay out ahead of us, like a day right behind the rain.

Today, I would like to talk about your possibilities as individuals, and our horizons as a Nation. I do so with the knowledge that you inherit a world not of your own making. And

yet with the belief that you can change that world -- charitably, and courageously -- through your choices and your deeds.

First, as prologue, a personal note.

The date of my graduation, I -- like millions of other Americans -- enlisted in the Armed Forces. For possibilities meant nothing unless America first crushed the forces of tyranny and oppression. Years later, with victory secure, we returned to try and win the peace. Each of us striving to live the American Dream.

Like so many of my generation -- your grandparents' generation -- I was lucky. Went to college. Got married. And I'll not soon forget how Barbara and I packed our belongings in a red Studebaker and moved halfway across the country. New State -- Texas. New life -- raising -- kids in a --room apartment. And we shared the bathroom with a lady who lived in a house trailer next to us. Started an oil company. Built a business. Charted unexplored frontiers -- like you, starting now.

Since then, we've had a few mailing addresses. A computer gauged the total once: -- moves in -- years. And like you will, we've had more than a few adventures. New problems. New vistas. And always, the distinctly American challenge of tomorrow -- the unknown. Course, we do hope now to stay in the same place awhile. As John Kennedy once said of the White House, "I have a nice home, and the office is close by."

I relate this not as an appendix to Gulliver's Travels. Nor as some trip down Memory Lane. But rather because over all those years, and all those miles, and all that wonderful experience, I learned a few things about this Nation. And about her people.

I learned, for starters, that we are not black and white, rural and urban, the privileged and the poor. Instead, we are Americans.

I learned, too, that life -- real life -- insists that we help those for whom the American Dream has become an Impossible Dream. And that any definition of life -- a successful life -- must include serving others.

And I learned, finally, that for different generations this service may take different forms. For conditions vary, and challenges change. Yet what doesn't change -- for my generation, and for yours -- is the capacity -- the responsibility -- to help a larger community. For we are not -- never have been -- islands unto ourselves.

Two centuries ago, for instance, our forefathers banded together to brave Independence. Their challenge was to found the

Colonies and then push back the wilderness. Ninety years later, your great-great-great-grandfathers helped win the War Between the States. Their challenge was to preserve the Republic so that, united, we stood.

A later generation helped oust Depression. Another helped rebuild postwar Europe. Still another placed a man on the moon. At times, we have been ragged in goods. But we have always been rich in spirit. Even in 1933, with 25 per cent of America's workforce out of work, her new president could say, surveying the Republic: "Our troubles concern, thank God, only material things."

Franklin Roosevelt knew then, as we know now, that a celebration of self is mockery, charade. And that prosperity without purpose means nothing. He knew -- as other Presidents have; as we do, too -- that we were put on this earth to lend a hand, tend a wound, and help the less fortunate. And that America has been -- historically -- and must remain -- indelibly -- a force for good in the ~~free and non-free~~ worlds.

We term these beliefs volunteerism, or community service. Service to Nation, and to neighbor. They embody what President Kennedy alluded to when he implored us to "Ask what you can do for your country." And what Dwight Eisenhower meant when he declared, "We must be willing, individually and as a Nation, to accept what sacrifices may be required of us."

As Americans, we have made those sacrifices -- eagerly, selflessly -- over 200 years. Think of Bunker Hill and Bastogne, where we upheld the canons of democracy. Or the Marshall Plan, where we aided our former enemies. Or the Peace Corps, where we said that volunteerism is the highest plane of patriotism. And now we must act again.

Abroad, we must support those who demand the rights our ancestors bequeathed to us -- the rights of assembly, religion, press, free speech.

Look to Poland, whose labor unions demand a voice -- and that their voice be heard. Or the Soviet Union, where individuality is on the march. Or China, whose students have installed a Statute of Democracy in Beking's Taineman Square. My friends, the world is changing. Because America's ideals are winning -- the ideals of liberty, human dignity, and "Do Unto Others."

In recent weeks, at College Commencement speeches, I have spoken of these ideals. And urged the Soviet Union to move beyond containment to rejoin the community of Nations. Today, I ask you to support democracy abroad -- to expand opportunity of expression. And I ask you, also, to act at home. Not to ensure

expression. ~~We won that battle long ago~~ [PAUSE]. . . if you doubt me, just listen to my critics. Rather, to win the war not yet won: ~~The battle~~ to ensure equality, prosperity, and above all, hope.

Today, I ask you to enlist in that great crusade. And to use community service as America's secret weapon, and her shield. Pope Pius XII once spoke of America's "genius for great and generous deeds." My friends, by giving of, not to, ourselves, volunteerism can make those deeds reality.

Now, I know there are some -- some friends of mine, others not so friendly -- who dismiss volunteerism as banal, passe. Or unsophisticated. Or -- to them, the greatest sin -- hopelessly old-fashioned. My friends, let me be direct: If being wrong were an art form, these folks would be the Rembrandt of our age.

To the woman who is able to work because her daughter has found a child-care center -- you tell her that community service is mundane. She'd tell you to get lost. Or the senior citizen, attending an education center, who is able -- finally -- to read. You tell him that volunteerism is a fraud. He'll laugh you off the stage -- that is, if he doesn't punch you in the nose.

The parents whose son has escaped heroin addiction because of round-the-clock counseling. The hungry and the homeless yearning for shelter and a meal. They know -- we know -- that volunteerism works. It is as timeless as our history, and as timely as today.

Yes, it's true: In 1989, our challenges may not be as dramatic as winning a global conflagration. Or restoring a Nation wracked by poverty and despair. And to that I say: Thank God. But they are as crucial to our destiny, and to our fabric as a people. And they will require the little-noted efforts that make headlines in the local weekly, if not the national magazines. Efforts by America's good, quiet, decent people -- people like you -- aiding, enriching, and helping our neighbor.

My friends, it is these efforts -- far more than government -- that can foster America's possibilities, and horizons. Last year, for instance, Americans contributed billions volunteer hours. And fully 23 million Americans volunteered 5 hours or more per week. They showed how the private sector -- and individuals -- have the resources -- and the responsibility -- to confront issues like hunger and health care, teen pregnancy and drug abuse.

Can they do it alone? Of course, they can't. For the essence of America is that we are driven to do better. That is why we have created the Office of National Service, which will

enlist new volunteers to help meet unmet social needs. This Office will spur cooperation between all levels of government, private enterprise, and voluntary organizations. And assist the millions of people -- according to a recent Newsweek poll, more than 85 per cent of all Americans -- who expect to spend as much or more time in the future doing community service.

And I am announcing today that ___ days from now, I will send legislation to the Congress -- and announce specifics -- of our Administration's new YES or YES to America Program -- Youth Entering Service. By saying "Yes" to America -- as the Peace Corps did, and ___, and ___ -- American youth can surpass -- far surpass -- the limits of what government alone can do.

Possibilities, and horizons. Individually, and as a Nation. Together, we can raise them, and give the lie to those who speak of some "Me" Generation. Instead, let us build a cathedral of the spirit -- and show that yours is America's "We" Generation.

You know, two weeks ago one of Pennsylvania's leading citizens announced his retirement from baseball. In ___ years, Mike Schmidt hit 548 home runs. Won three Most Valuable Player Awards. And became perhaps the greatest third baseman in baseball history. Moreover, he was a model family man, and donated hundreds of hours to local charities.

Upon retiring, Schmitty observed that "Sixteen years ago, I was a shy kid from Dayton, two bad knees, who dreamed of being a big-league ballplayer." And then he said, "Thank God that dream came true."
Yes, someone else

For Mike Schmidt, both on and off the field, the possibilities of life came true. And possibilities, too, transfixed perhaps the greatest Pennsylvanian of them all -- Benjamin Franklin -- when 202 years ago he looked at the president's chair on the last day of the Constitutional Convention *at the end*

Often, the noted kite-flyer conceded, he had wondered during Philadelphia's long, hot summer whether the sun painted on the chair was rising or setting. "But now at length," Franklin said, "I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

My friends, for America -- for volunteerism -- for you as individuals -- our sun is also rising.

In coming years, give to life the life you have received from this high school. Be selfless. Do Unto Others. Help spur that unity of purpose which benefits the Nation as a whole.

And as you do, remember that your inheritance is America - treasure it. Care intensely, and give intensely of yourselves. And may you recall how, together, we can shape "tomorrow" in the image of our dreams -- not merely for this generation, but for generations to come.

Good luck, my most heart-felt congratulations, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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(Smith/Blessey)
June 2, 1989
Draft Five
HIGH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL
WYCOTTE, PENNSYLVANIA
JUNE 19, 1989

President __, Faculty and Administrators, Parents, Students,
Friends.

Let me thank you all for that very kind reception. And I
especially want to thank you, _____, for that gracious
introduction.

It is indeed a privilege to be at the magnificent success
that is Cheltenham High School. And I know that you'll believe
me when I say what a pleasure it is to join my soon-to-be fellow
high-school graduates.

Of course, I also want you to enjoy today. Therefore, a
promise: I will be brief. After all, you've worked and studied
and struggled for four years, and now comes the hard part.
Listening to a Commencement address.

And let me assure you: I do remember how it feels. For it
seems like only yesterday that I, too, listened to a high-school
Commencement speech -- like you, as an undergraduate, about to
receive my degree [PAUSE] . . . Believe me, I only wish it were
yesterday.

In high school, I loved History, English, and major league baseball [PAUSE] . . . not necessarily in that order. But most of all, I loved tomorrow. Its possibilities were soaring, infinite. Its horizons lay out ahead of us, like a day right behind the rain.

Today, I would like to talk about your possibilities as individuals, and our horizons as a Nation. I do so with the knowledge that you inherit a world not of your own making. Yet with the belief that you can change that world -- charitably, and courageously -- through your choices and your deeds.

You know, after high school, I got married. Went to college. And I'll not soon forget how in our twenties, Barbara and I packed our belongings and moved halfway across the country. Started a company. Built a business. Charted unexplored frontiers -- like you, starting now.

Since then, we've had a few adventures. And more than a few addresses. And always, that distinctly American challenge of tomorrow -- the unknown. Course, we do hope now to stay in the same place awhile. As John Kennedy once said of the White House, "I have a nice home, and the office is close by."

I relate this not as an appendix to Gulliver's Travels. Nor as some trip down Memory Lane. But rather because over all those years, and all those miles, I learned a few things about this Nation. And her people.

To begin, I learned that we are not black and white, rural and urban, the privileged and the poor. We are Americans.

I learned, too, that life -- real life -- insists that we help those for whom the American Dream has become an Impossible Dream. And that any definition of life -- a successful life -- must include serving others.

And I learned, finally, that for different generations this service may take different forms. For conditions vary, and challenges change. Yet what doesn't -- musn't -- change is the capacity -- the responsibility -- to help a larger community.

Two centuries ago, for instance, our forefathers banded together to brave Independence. Their challenge was to found the Colonies and then push back the wilderness. Ninety years later, many of your great-great-great-grandfathers helped win the War Between the States. Their challenge was to preserve the Republic so that, united, we stood.

A later generation helped oust Depression. Another helped rebuild postwar Europe. Still another placed a man on the moon. At times, we have been ragged in goods. But we have always been rich in spirit. Even in 1933, with 25 per cent of America's workforce out of work, Franklin Roosevelt could say, surveying the Republic: "Our troubles concern, thank God, only material things."

FDR knew then, as we know now, that a celebration of self is mockery. And that prosperity without purpose is meaningless. He knew that we were put on this earth to lend a hand, tend a wound, and help the less fortunate. And that America has been --

historically -- and must remain -- indelibly -- a force for good in the world.

We term these beliefs volunteerism, or community service. Service to Nation, and to neighbor. They embody what Harry Truman alluded to when he implored "the human family" to help "the least fortunate of its members to help themselves." And what Dwight Eisenhower meant when he declared, "We must be willing, individually and as a Nation, to accept what sacrifices may be required of us."

As Americans, we have made those sacrifices -- eagerly, selflessly -- over 200 years. Think of Bunker Hill and Bastogne, where we upheld the canons of democracy. Or the Marshall Plan, where we aided our former enemies. Or the Peace Corps, where we said that volunteerism is the highest plane of patriotism. Today, we must act again.

Abroad, we must support -- by word, and by deed -- the young people who demand such rights as assembly, religion, press, free speech. The rights our ancestors won for us. And that we too often take for granted.

Look to Poland, whose labor unions demand a voice -- and that their voice be heard. Or the Soviet Union, where individuality is on the march. Or China, whose students have installed a Statute of Democracy in Beking's Taineman Square. My friends, the world is changing. Because America's ideals are winning -- the ideals of liberty, human dignity, and "Do Unto Others."

In recent weeks, at College Commencement speeches, I have spoken of these ideals. And urged the Soviet Union to move beyond containment to rejoin the community of Nations. What I'm talking about is simple: All peoples' right of free expression. And at home, we must also act. Not to ensure expression [PAUSE] . . . We don't have to worry about that [PAUSE] . . . If you doubt me, just listen to my critics. Rather, to win the war not yet won: The war for equality, prosperity, and above all, hope.

Today, I ask you to enlist in that great crusade. And to use community service as America's secret weapon, and her shield.

Now, I know there are some -- some friends of mine, others not so friendly -- who dismiss volunteerism as passe, unsophisticated. Or -- Heaven forbid, the greatest sin -- as hopelessly old-fashioned. My friends, if being wrong were an art form, these folks would be the Rembrandts of our age.

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The parents whose son has escaped heroin addiction because of round-the-clock counseling. The hungry and the homeless yearning for shelter and a meal. They know -- we know -- that volunteerism works. It is as timeless as our history, and as timely as today.

Yes, it's true: In 1989, our challenges may not be as dramatic as winning World War II. Or restoring a Nation wracked by poverty and despair. And to that I say: Thank God. But they are as crucial to our destiny, and to our fabric as a people. And they will require the little-noted efforts that make headlines in the local weekly, if not the national magazines. Efforts by America's good, quiet, decent people -- people like you -- aiding, enriching, and helping our neighbor.

My friends, it is these efforts -- far more than government -- that can foster America's possibilities, and horizons. Last year, for instance, Americans contributed __ billion volunteer hours. And fully 23 million Americans volunteered 5 hours or more per week. They showed how the private sector -- and individuals -- have the resources -- and the responsibility -- to confront issues like hunger and health care, teen pregnancy and drug abuse.

No, it's not enough -- it never is. For the essence of America is that we are driven to do better. That is why we have created the Office of National Service, which will enlist new volunteers to help meet unmet social needs. This Office will spur cooperation between all levels of government, private enterprise, and voluntary organizations. And assist the more than 85 per cent of all Americans -- according to a Newsweek poll -- who expect to spend as much or more time in the future doing community service.

And I am announcing today that ___ days from now, I will send legislation to the Congress -- and announce specifics -- of our Administration's new YES or YES to America Program -- Youth Entering Service. By saying "Yes" to America -- as the Peace Corps did, and ___, and ___ -- American youth can surpass -- far surpass -- the limits of what government alone can do.

Possibilities, and horizons. Individually, and as a Nation. Together, we can raise them, and give the lie to those who speak of some "Me" Generation. Instead, let us build a cathedral of the spirit -- and show how yours is America's "We" Generation.

You know, 202 years ago perhaps the greatest Pennsylvanian of them all looked at the president's chair on the last day of the Constitutional Convention. And addressing a friend, Benjamin Franklin made a confession.

Often, he admitted, he had wondered during Philadelphia's long, hot summer whether the sun painted on the chair was rising or setting. "But now at length," Franklin said, "I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

My friends, for America -- for volunteerism -- for you as individuals -- our sun is also rising.

In coming years, give to life the life you have received from this high school. Help spur that unity of purpose which benefits the Nation as a whole.

And as you do, remember that your inheritance is America - treasure it. Be selfless. Do unto others. Together, let us

shape "tomorrow" in the image of our dreams -- not merely for this generation, but for generations to come.

Good luck, my most heart-felt congratulations, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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(Smith/Blessey)
June 16, 1989
Draft Eight
HIGH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL
WYCÔTTE, PENNSYLVANIA
JUNE 19, 1989

Mr. Secretary, Dr. Stefanski, Mr. Rogers, Members of the Board, Faculty and Administrators, Parents and Students.

Thank you, Hang Ngyun [Hong WEE en], for that gracious introduction. And I want to thank all of you for your generous reception.

It is indeed a privilege to be at the magnificent success that is Cheltenham High School. And to say, paraphrasing Mark Twain, that reports of your reputation have not "been greatly exaggerated."

You know, as Marine One flies, it's 120 miles from Washington to Philadelphia. And on the way up here Secretary Cavazos -- that ardent champion of American education -- detailed for me your superb record of achievement in social service, music, the academics and humanities.

Well, now that I've seen you up-close and personal, I can say that Mr. Trimble is right: Cheltenham, "you are beautiful." And I know that you'll believe me when I say what a pleasure it is to join my soon-to-be fellow high-school graduates.

Of course, I also want you to enjoy today. Therefore, a promise: I will be brief. After all, you've worked and studied

and struggled for four years, and now comes the hard part. Listening to a Commencement address.

And let me assure you: I do remember how it feels. For it seems like only yesterday that I, too, as a high-school senior, listened to a Commencement speech [PAUSE] . . . Believe me, I only wish it were yesterday.

In high school, I loved History, English, and major league baseball [PAUSE] . . . not necessarily in that order. But most of all, I loved the possibilities, and horizons, of the rainbow called tomorrow. A rainbow that, here at Cheltenham, you color blue and gold.

Today, I would like to talk about your possibilities as individuals, and our horizons as a Nation. I do so believing that you can enrich the world -- charitably, and courageously -- through your choices and your deeds. And through a few things I've learned, and would like to share with you: Things about America -- and her people.

I have learned, for instance, that we are not black and white, rural and urban, the privileged and the poor. We are Americans.

I have learned that any definition of a successful life insists that we help those for whom the American Dream seems like an Impossible Dream.

And I have learned that for different generations this help may take different forms. For conditions vary, and challenges

change. Yet what does not -- must not -- change is our capacity -- responsibility -- to assist society at large.

Two centuries ago, for instance, our forefathers banded together to brave Independence. Their challenge was to found the Colonies and then tame a wild frontier. Ninety years later, the challenge for many of your great-great-great-grandfathers was to preserve the Republic so that, united, we stood.

A later generation helped pull us out of the Depression. Still another placed a man on the moon. At times, we have been ragged in goods. But we have always been rich in spirit. Even in 1933, with 25 per cent of America's workforce out of work, Franklin Roosevelt could say, surveying the Republic: "Our troubles concern, thank God, only material things."

FDR knew then, as we know now, that life is measured not by what's in our bank account -- but by holding ourselves to account for the well-being of our community.

This belief is as timeless as the Spirit of 1776. It embodies what Dwight Eisenhower meant when he said, "We must be willing, individually and as a Nation, to accept what sacrifices may be required of us."

As Americans, we have made those sacrifices -- eagerly, selflessly -- for over 200 years. Think of Bunker Hill and Bastogne, where we upheld the tenets of democracy. Or the Marshall Plan, where we rebuilt postwar Europe. Or the Peace Corps and Power Through People, where freedom waved a flag emblazoned, "Service to Nation, and to neighbor."

((You know, a student told me awhile ago that high school is a great place to learn about personal risk-taking. I asked how he figured that. And he said: "Have you ever tasted cafeteria food?"))

My friends, today I ask you to take a risk for a cause larger than ourselves. It is the cause of Clara Barton and the Salvation Army. Of Raoul Wallenberg, who helped refugees escape oppression, and Mary McLeod Bethune, who made higher learning a bequest. It is the cause of helping others, and thereby America. It is the cause of democratic ideals.

Abroad, this cause insists that we help -- by word, and by deed -- the young people who demand such rights as assembly, religion, press, free speech. The rights our ancestors secured for us. And that we too often take for granted.

[Look to the Soviet Union, where brave people press for religious, intellectual, and political liberty. Look to Poland, where Solidarity's long struggle has borne fruit in the results of free elections. Or, yes, look to China, where students have demanded freedom -- a demand that will not be stilled.

Who will ever forget the picture of that young Chinese -- solitary and vulnerable -- facing down a column of tanks? That vivid, unforgettable image illustrates how precious is the freedom that is America's secret weapon, and her shield.

We do not have to stand in front of tanks in America. But we do have to summon the same courage to confront the evil that exists in the world. We have to stand in front of the forces of

cruelty and violence. And confront the dark powers of poverty and despair. We have to summon the courage to face down the scourge of drugs that stalks, and harms, our youth.

Fortunately, we Americans have an advantage: We have a heritage of bravery, of faith in God, of liberty and human dignity. And the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Values embodied, for example, by Cheltenham graduates David Dornstein [DORN steen] and Martin Apfelbaum, who lost their lives in the crash of Pan Am Flight 103.

In recent weeks, at College Commencement speeches, I have spoken of these values. And called for the right of peoples everywhere to free expression. Well, those values also guide our challenge at home. Not merely to ensure free expression -- for the most part, that war has already been won. Rather, to win the struggle not yet decided: The fight for justice, equality, and hope.

My friends, to win that fight will require you, and you, and you [POINT TO THREE MEMBERS OF AUDIENCE] -- you, and others, enlisting in our crusade. And it will demand the little-noted deeds that make headlines not in the national magazines, but in the local weekly. Deeds that once moved Lafayette, a 17-year-old when he led Washington's troops at Yorktown, to write of America: "What charms me most is, that all the citizens are brethren."

We term these deeds volunteerism, or community service. They are central to our fabric as a Nation, and as a people. No, they aren't as dramatic as the profiles in courage of Warsaw, the

gulags, and Tiananmen Square. But they reflect the same sense of sacrifice, and of concern: concern for country, decency, our fellow man.

You know, there's a story about a father who told his son that if he cheated on an exam he'd only be hurting himself. And the son replied, "Maybe I'll see if I can stand the pain."

Well, volunteerism's groups, and individuals, haven't cheated -- themselves, or their society. Groups like your Youth at Risk program, Eagle Scouts, and United Way Youth Council Chapter. Individuals like Aneka Cooper, who assists a neighborhood nursing home. Or Keith Damsker, translating materials into Korean for the American Cancer Society. Or two Jennifers -- Payes and Lowe [Low] -- who serve at Moss Rehabilitation Center and Holy Redeemer Hospital.

The thing is: At Cheltenham, that's just a partial reading. The list is endless. Their deeds go on. And another thing: Across America, we need to expand this roll of volunteers. For they can combat -- nationally -- as you are doing -- locally -- issues like hunger and health care, drug abuse and homelessness.

To achieve that aim, our Administration recently created the Office of National Service. And this week, we will take another step. For by announcing our Administration's new YES or YES to America Program -- Youth Entering Service -- we will refute those who speak of a "Me" Generation. Instead, this program can build a cathedral of the spirit -- and help yours become a global "We" Generation.

Let me tell you a story about that generation, and its spirit.

One day, a man stepped aboard a train. And as he did, a shoe slipped off and landed on the track. Unable to retrieve it as the train was moving, the man calmly took off his other shoe and threw it back along the track in the direction of the first. His fellow passengers were amazed. Smiling, Mahatma Gandhi explained his action: "The poor man who finds the shoe lying on the track will now have a pair he can use."

Gandhi knew, as we must, that the "We" Generation rejects a new Gilded Age of mindless self-absorption. For only "we," not "me," can define a successful life both for the individual and the Nation.

Remember those beliefs. Treasure them. And remember, too, two signs which are posted right here in your gym.

One suggests that, "Success is a journey, not a destination." Often perilous, even cruel, but possessed of the challenges and values linking the students of this high school with the students of the world.

The other sign reads, "If a man never fails it may be because he never tries." My friends, some of you may try for President. Others, more enlightened, will do something truly inspiring. Become a doctor, like your alumnus, Michael Brown. Perhaps a ballplayer, like Cheltenham's Reggie Jackson. An artist like Edward Hergelroth, who has painted my own home in Kennebunkport. Or writers like Levinson and Link.

X Whatever you decide, you will act not for yourselves alone -- but for a larger community, whether in Cheltenham or China. And in that spirit, let me close with another story from the human, which is the global, saga: A story about the most famous Pennsylvanian of them all.

Two hundred and two years ago, Benjamin Franklin looked at the president's chair on the last day of the Constitutional Convention. And addressing a friend, he made a confession.

Often, Franklin admitted, he had wondered during Philadelphia's long, hot summer whether the sun painted on the chair was rising or setting. "But now at length," he said, "I have the happiness to know that it is a rising and not a setting sun."

My friends, for America -- for this high school -- for you as individuals -- our sun is rising, too.

In coming years, expand America's possibilities. Enlarge her horizons as a people. Say "Yes" to liberty, and to the dignity of man.

And as you do, remember that your inheritance is the future -- guard it, cherish it. Together, let us shape "tomorrow" in the image of our dreams -- not merely for this generation, but for generations to come.

Good luck, my most heart-felt congratulations, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

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