

of the United States, that it honestly, as stated by Admiral Nimitz, "staggered the imagination."

Thank you and sincerely,

BOB VAN DEVENDER.

ARTHUR LEVITT'S GRADUATION
SPEECH

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year when each of us spends a great deal of time addressing high school graduation classes. We offer our wisdom and experience to these young graduates who are entering a new phase in their lives.

Students graduating from Pojoaque High School in my home county of Santa Fe had the unique opportunity to hear from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Arthur Levitt. Chairman Levitt offered a magnificent commencement address that deserves to be shared with more than just the 101 member graduating class.

I urge my colleagues to review Chairman Levitt's speech and share it with young people all across this great country.

REMARKS BY ARTHUR LEVITT, CHAIRMAN, U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION—POJOAQUE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, POJOAQUE PUEBLO, NM

I am really proud to be here—almost as proud as the families and friends of the seniors who are graduating today. Congratulations to each of you. You've worked hard to reach this day—enjoy it.

I don't think I ever wanted to speak at a graduation any more than this one. I've seen you through the eyes of my friend, John Rivera Dirks and his four classmates, Antonio Gonzalez, George Gonzalez, Ronald Noybal and Melissa Martinez, who honored me by your invitation. And I like what I see—(101) men and women who have worked hard—played and prayed together—respected their families, their community and their country, and are now going to take the risks of jobs or college in a world of uncertainty, challenge and opportunity.

I guess I'm here partly as a Vecino who has a home about 13 miles south of here. And I'm here partly because John invited me, and because I so admire the values of his family and their devotion to one another and to their community.

But there's one other reason I'm here today, and that is because I identify with this community. I grew up in a neighborhood called Crown Heights, which is in Brooklyn, New York. And my mother, like John's, was a school teacher. And believe it or not, Pojoaque and the Crown Heights I remember have a lot in common. Both are very closely-knit communities, where everyone knows everyone else. Both are home to many members of the same family, so that your butcher or baker or even your high school teacher might also be your uncle or aunt.

And, most important, Crown Heights and Pojoaque are both equally part of America, a nation that offers its citizens more opportunities than any nation in the world—no matter whether you are a man or a woman, whether you are Hispanic, Native America or Jewish, whether you live in New Mexico or New York.

That's not to say things come easy in this country. I've had all kinds of jobs—I worked for a newspaper, served in the Air Force,

raised a family, worked on a ranch and in offices. From time to time, I also encountered prejudice and overcame it.

I never went to graduate school or even took an economic course. I nearly flunked out of grammar school and had lots of doubts about my choice of jobs. I must confess to you that in each of the five jobs I've held, including the present one—without exception I started out by being terrified that I was not up to it.

Many of you have shared such uncertainties. You certainly know that careers and relationships have bumps and curves. But if one quality more than any other predicts success that quality is perseverance. And if there is one characteristic which will make success meaningful rather than just a cheap or hollow attainment, that characteristic is integrity.

I don't have to tell you about the problems of our society that may impede or distract you—crime, injustice, drugs, prejudice, and many more. You've gotten this far by overcoming them. You'll need to stay tough—to fight for what you want and believe in and resist the easy, fast, or thoughtless paths.

You'll also need to be smart and willing to take risks. The best in our society have failed, made mistakes, or had bad breaks but they didn't turn back, blame others, or remain indecisive.

Don't believe the myth that opportunity strikes only once in a lifetime. You will be exposed to opportunities much more than that—maybe once a day if you'll be receptive. What a good education—either formal or by experience—will do is equip you to recognize opportunities.

Most of you know what it means to work hard. And you've received a good education here at Pojoaque. So you already have a solid foundation on which to build your lives.

But more than half of you will take a step further and go to college; if you can do it, that's really the best foundation of all—especially in the 1990s.

You may have friends or relatives who did fine without college—in fact, the Prime Minister of England, John Major, never finished college. But in most cases, those people belong to a generation that came before you; your generation, and those that come after you, will find the most opportunities by going to college. So please do that if you can—either now or later.

But no matter what you do next, don't settle for whatever life give you—instead—reach for the stars. You are undoubtedly better than you think you are. You are probably smarter. Try to make your fate rather than just going with the flow.

Sure it's easy for me to tell you what to do and what it's all about. I know that it's tough to be 17 and, believe it or not, I was once there. If I can leave this wonderful class with anything today, it's to preserve your spirit, nurture the values that brought your families to rejoice with you as you graduate, and don't accept the path of least resistance.

Take chances. Go out on a limb, for your job or your dream. Laugh at yourself.

Let someone in. Comfort a friend. Give, and give in. Observe miracles—make them happen. Forgive an enemy. Take time for people—make time for yourself.

Write a song. Challenge someone in power. Say no. Climb a mountain. Change your mind. Fail, feel, love, But above all—grow. Don't ever look back and say what might have been. Enjoy life, and share you joys with others.

Compassion, integrity and a sense of humor will make it easier. The belief and pride I see in the eyes of your parents and friends should get you off to a great start. And know that I join the others in this room

rooting and praying for the Pojaque High School Class of '95. And now, after so many years of listening to adults talk, it's time for you to make some noise, too. This is your day. Congratulations, and good luck. Buena Suerte.

A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL
AMERICANS: THE CLARA BARTON
HIGH SCHOOL BILL OF
RIGHTS TEAM

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the 36 students and their teachers from Clara Barton High School whose efforts represent a Point-of-Light for all Americans. Brooklyn and the 11th Congressional District are particularly proud of the team from Clara Barton High School who won the New York State Championship and finished fourth among the 50 States in the "We the People . . . the Citizens and the Constitution" competition.

The team of students and their teachers at Clara Barton High School competed against some of the best, brightest, and wealthiest students from New York State to secure the State championship. They further persevered in the national "We the People" competition—a debate-style mock congressional hearing which judges students' knowledge and critical understanding of the Bill of Rights. In preparation for the competition, students undertook an intensive study of the Bill of Rights. At the competition, students were required to take a position on current constitutional issues and to defend their position elaborately.

Located in the heart of the Crown Heights neighborhood, it is evident that the students from Clara Barton are quite capable of overcoming many feats amid an environment too often characterized by doubt, negative peer pressure, and modest economic means. They fought against a problem-ridden education system and achieved excellence for themselves and their community.

The names of the victorious students are: Carl Abbot, Afaf Abdur Rahman, Maatra Akbar, Jasmine Ali, LaToya Andrews, Lourdes Baez, Alesha Bovell, Faithlyn Brown, Eva Gordon, Kevin Grant, Quincy Grigsby, Chevonne Hall, Kevin Johnson, Zulema Jones, Charmaine King, Marsha Lewis, Rosevelie Marquez, Dwayne Mason, Antoinette McKenzie, Dameon Ming, Cynthia Morales, David Morisset, Sheila Morisset, Cecil Orji, Felix Pacheco, Gary Pagan, Sherita Perry, Carline Petit, Travis Sampson, Karen Sanchez, Crystal Sheard, Kestia St. Juste, Stacy Taitt, Kaydean West, Arnise Williams, and Vaughn Wilson.

The tireless efforts of many adults also contributed to the victory of the Clara Barton students. Their coaches were Mr. Leo Casey and Ms. Randi Weingarten. Also, for the past 5 years Mrs. Florence Smith served as a special liaison to the Clara Barton team from the office of Congressman MAJOR OWENS. The MLK Commission chaired by Mrs. Lorrelle Henry provided moral, spiritual, and financial support for the team. Many additional friends including Judge Thomas R. Jones adopted the team and became cosponsors.

With the war on our children's future being waged by the Republicans in Washington and