

It is my privilege to welcome the group responsible for all of us being here this evening—the graduating class of 2010. This is also an opportunity to provide one more word of encouragement as they prepare to take their places as contributing members of our society.

So congratulations for your perseverance that has led to the achievement of a high school diploma. Always remember your family members, teachers, and friends who provided you with the necessary prodding.

Now for the encouragement—two things briefly: 1) Be alert for Political Correctness that is crawling insidiously through our country, and 2) Be proud of your country.

First the PC: I know you are all aware of what seems to be a never-ending attempt to remove anything from our schools that has to do with religion. For example, when your parents and grandparents were in school, they were released the last couple of weeks in December for a specific reason: Christmas. Now look at the school calendars from all of the other public schools in our two cities; they call it “Winter Break.”

Our School calendar doesn't say, “Winter Break” because we don't break because it's winter; we break because of the birth of a baby in a little town called “Bethlehem” some 2000 years ago, and we still call it “Christmas.”

Here's another: In an interview with *Time* magazine, Tom Hanks said this about our war with Japan during WW II:

"Back in World War II, we viewed the Japanese as 'yellow, slant-eyed dogs' that believed in different gods. They were out to kill us because our way of living was different. We, in turn, wanted to annihilate them because they were different. Does that sound familiar, by any chance, to what's going on today?"

Now, the scary thing is there are people who read that kind of garbage and believe it. Worse yet some will be just ignorant enough to believe that also is the reason American troops are in Iraq and Afghanistan. Well, you saw the actual footage of WW II—the war in Europe and the war in the Pacific. Now did that look like we went to war with Japan, because we didn't like how they looked? No. You saw actual video of their planes strafing and bombing our ships at Pearl Harbor in a sneak attack designed to destroy our Pacific Fleet.

And you know our military is fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, because we were attacked on 9/11/2001 by Radical Islam, an evil perversion committed to the destruction of our country.

Now this leads me into my second point—why you should be so proud of this country—your country. At the height of their success, Japan occupied 12-13 Asian countries and thousands of islands, and Germany occupied roughly 30 countries in Europe. America had to fight these two huge empires at the same time. You saw the American troops hit the beaches on those islands in the Pacific and in Italy and Normandy and fight their way in until they had subdued the enemy. You also saw and heard of the countless acts of heroism. **That's what Americans do.**

Finally, the Germans and the Japanese were defeated, and they are now our Allies. Because of our victories (and the defeat of the Soviet Union in the subsequent Cold War) all of those 40+ countries are free.

So, the next time you see some American politician apologizing for our country, I want you to think of this question: Is he apologizing to the countries whose butt's America kicked or to the countries whose butt's America saved?

Here is another good example of American heroism: The 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army was an Asian- American unit composed of mostly Japanese Americans who fought in Europe during World War II. The 442<sup>nd</sup> fought with uncommon distinction in Italy, southern France, and Germany. The unit became the most highly decorated regiment in the history of the United States Armed Forces, including 21 Medal of Honor recipients. These were soldiers of Japanese ancestry who considered themselves Patriotic Americans.

In 1945, a medal was being presented to the family of one of these soldiers who had been killed in battle. The person doing the presenting was a Captain in the US Army: Captain Ronald Wilson Reagan. This is what he said:

“The blood that has soaked into the sands of the beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world; the only country not founded on race, but on a way (a way of life) an ideal.” That would be Individual Freedom.

You also saw the “War of 1812” video. The 4,000 Americans who defeated the 10,000 British troops at the Battle of New Orleans during our first declared war—The War of 1812—had the same kind of blood. Even though they were Creole, Indian, Black, Hispanic, and White, **they responded as Americans.**

Because you are Americans, you too have American blood coursing through your veins, so when you find yourselves in difficult situations (and you will have many throughout your lives), though perhaps not as dramatic as the ones I mentioned, stand for what you believe. **Respond as an American.**

Now, you all know our country is going through a bit of a tough time right now; although, nothing that compares with what our country faced during these wars.

This country will right itself, and we will be OK. America has overcome many challenges greater than this one, and another quote that explains my optimism, again comes from Ronald Reagan in his acceptance speech during his first inaugural address as he became the 40th President of the United States:

“...It does require, however, our best effort, and our willingness to believe in ourselves and to believe in our capacity to perform great deeds; to believe that together, with God's help, we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us. And, after all, why shouldn't we believe that? (After all) We are Americans.”

America is not just another country situated here on God's green earth. America is the greatest, most important country this world has ever known. We have the world's greatest economy, the world's greatest military, and we are the world's most generous nation when it comes to helping other countries.

Now you have a bright future in front of you. No other country rewards hard work and determination like this great country we are so blessed to live in. And as you take your places as adults in this country, please do not allow what you see on TV or in the movies or what you may hear in a college classroom (especially from some 1960s America-hating radicals) to diminish the pride you have in your country.

And remember this, we Americans are many colors, but we are one people. Do your part to help us keep it that way. And the best way you can do it is to raise your children to respect and defend the values that flag represents, and to appreciate those who wear the uniforms of our great nation.

So again, congratulations; be careful on the road when you leave here tonight; make good decisions in your lives. And make us proud. God bless you, God bless your families, and God bless the United States of America.