



American Inspiration

Greetings and Happy Graduation to many of you!

There is an excitement in the air with many high school and college students walking across the stage to receive their hard earned diplomas. It is a moment of pride for every student, parent and grandparent. As you toss your caps in the air, remember that this is just the beginning of your journey and make every moment count for good.

Here are some thoughts for the day for the graduates and for all of us:

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"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of other people's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And, most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."

**Steve Jobs, co-founder and CEO of Apple Computers and board member for Disney**

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"A positive thinker does not refuse to recognize the negative, he refuses to dwell on it. Positive thinking is a form of thought which habitually looks for the best results from the worst conditions."

Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993) cleric and writer

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"Consider every choice you are offered. Have as much fun as you can, when you can.

**Do not shrink from life, and do not shrink from the choices."**

**Gwen Ifill, broadcast journalist**

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"Aspire to decency. Practice civility toward one another. Admire and emulate ethical behavior wherever you find it. Apply a rigid standard of morality to your lives; and if, periodically, you fail – as you surely will – adjust your lives, not the standards."

Ted Koppel, broadcast journalist

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This will be the last American Inspiration for this school year. We will take a break

for the summer and resume at the end of August when everyone is back in school.

Now is the time to register for summer **Jazz Camps** for individuals, for **Officer or Leadership Camps**, and **Team Camps** on our web site at [www.DanceADTS.com](http://www.DanceADTS.com). We are near or past capacity at many camps so make sure to contact us immediately. We can also provide **Private Social Officer One Days**, as well as **Private Team Camps**. There is a wealth of information for you on our web site.

As you are reflecting on your self worth, know that you are all special to someone and, most likely, many people. No matter how far you are off course, you are always going to be special. Below is a great passage sent to me from a friend. It is a powerful message about your worth as a human being. I hope that it is something to ponder as you depart for summer break.

May God bless and keep you through the summer, and we will look forward to resuming the weekly messages as school begins again. *Keep in touch!*

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*Sincerely,*

*Joyce E. Pennington, Pres. CEO*

*American Dance/Drill Team®*

*[www.DanceADTS.com](http://www.DanceADTS.com)*

*800/462-5719*

## *The \$20 Bill*

*A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20.00 bill.*

*In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?"*

*Hands started going up.*

*He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this.*

*He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 dollar bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?"*

*Still the hands were up in the air.*

*Well, he replied, "What if I do this?"*

*And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty.*

*"Now, who still wants it?"*

*Still the hands went into the air.*

*My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20. Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value.*

*Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless to those who DO LOVE you. The worth of our lives comes not in what we do or who we know, but by WHO WE ARE and WHOSE WE ARE. You are special- Don't EVER forget it."*