

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “College Graduates Message, 1975” of the Eliska Hasek Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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TO THE 1975 COLLEGE GRADUATES:

President Eisenhower once said that education is not only the means for earning a living, but for enlarging life. His words are especially appropriate for those who complete college. Your generation's candor, sensitivity and desire for creative involvement are heartening signs that you will be doing more than just earning a living.

You are graduating in a particularly difficult year. You will be faced with many uncertainties. But the opportunities that await you are even greater than the challenges. It will indeed be within your grasp to enlarge and enrich life in our society. As you make the decisions that will shape your course and that of your country, I hope you will keep in mind that one person can make a difference.

Times have changed greatly since I went to college. But looking back on those days in the context of today's world, I know that the same optimism and hope I shared with my classmates is very much alive in you today. I want you to know how much I admire your enthusiasm and determination, and how convinced I am that you will make a difference for America.

I wish each of you the satisfaction that comes from doing your best at something you believe in.

GERALD R. FORD

