

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

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

TO THE 1975 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

As high school graduates, you are passing an important milestone. You are about to enter into a society that is filled with challenge and opportunity. What you do with your lives from this point forward will determine not only your personal self-fulfillment, but the general well-being of our nation.

You carry with you the hopes of those who know and trust you. The future of America depends on your generation. You can make of America whatever you want. The opportunities before you are as great as the challenges.

Education is the greatest key to a better life. But to open the door of opportunity you need faith in yourselves, pride in what you have accomplished, and the idealism to persevere. If you add to this the awareness that learning never ceases, you will indeed bring to your lives the kind of meaning and satisfaction you seek.

I wish you every success on the road ahead.

GERALD R. FORD

