

The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “High School Graduation Message, 1976” of the Eliska Hasek Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO THE 1976 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

This occasion marks one of the important milestones in your life. As young Americans striving for the next milestone, you will have many choices to make. There will be many opportunities to put your energy, your intelligence and your idealism to work.

This nation possesses the most advanced technology in the world. It has a wealth of natural resources, an open political system, a diverse economy and outstanding educational opportunities. As you take advantage of these priceless national assets, remember that you serve both as their caretaker -- so they may be preserved -- and as a contributor to improve these assets for the generations which follow you.

As you leave high school in this Bicentennial year, you should also be conscious of the heritage of courage, faith, vision and vitality bequeathed to us by our Founding Fathers. Yours is a generation of great potential, limited only by the bounds of your imagination.

As you meet the future, you have my very best wishes for peace, prosperity and success.

Gerald R. Ford

