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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

GRAND RAPIDS , MICHIGAN

MONDAY , JUNE 7, 1976

IT IS TRULY AN HONOR FOR ME
TO RETURN TO MY OWN HIGH SCHOOL
AFTER 40 YEARS —

THAT SEEMS A VERY LONG TIME AGO.

To you but ^{Tonight} it is only like a few years
for me.

ALTHOUGH YOU AND I STUDIED

IN THE SAME CLASSROOMS,
I'm sure
MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED

AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.

THE CLASS OF 1936 AND THE CLASS OF 1976

ARE MORE THAN YEARS APART,

^{the}
BECAUSE OF MANY EVENTS AND CHANGES

IN ~~THE~~ ^{THIS} WORLD.

THE SUBJECTS YOU STUDIED,
THE CLOTHES YOU WEAR
AND THE JOBS YOU WILL HAVE
ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE OF MY GENERATION.
BUT I BELIEVE EACH CLASS
OF GRADUATES AND PARENTS
HAVE SIMILAR EMOTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS
ON GRADUATION DAY.

have
I ~~am~~ SHARED THIS DAY
WITH MY FOUR CHILDREN,
AND I KNOW WHAT A COMBINATION ^{of a And} SAD-HAPPY DAY
THIS IS FOR ALL OF YOU ~~is~~

FOR GRADUATES,
THIS MARKS AN END
TO A VERY SPECIAL TIME
IN YOUR LIVES.
YOU WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER
THE FRIENDS AND THE FUN,
BUT YOU ARE LOOKING TODAY
TO NEW ADVENTURES

TODAY YOU BEGIN TO TAKE
MORE CONTROL OF YOUR OWN LIVES
AND TO PURSUE YOUR OWN SPECIAL DREAMS.

WHETHER YOU CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION

OR START A JOB,

YOU WILL MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS.

THAT'S BOTH EXCITING

~~AND~~ BUT A LITTLE SCARY.

YOUR LIFE WILL NEVER BE
AS STRUCTURED AND PREDICTABLE
AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST —
TO USE A PHRASE
ARE
YOU' ~~RE~~ ALL FAMILIAR WITH,
THERE WILL BE FEWER "REQUIRED COURSES"
AND MORE "ELECTIVES."

AS YOUR PARENTS AND FRIENDS
LAUNCH YOU ON THIS ADVENTURE,
I KNOW THEY SHARE YOUR EXCITEMENT.
AS ALL PARENTS DO, *I know*
THEY WANT GOOD THINGS FOR YOU.

I'M SURE EVERY MOTHER
IN THIS AUDIENCE
REMEMBERS THE FIRST DAY
YOU WENT OFF TO SCHOOL
THE SAME MIXTURE OF HIGH HOPES
AND JUST A LITTLE PAIN
ARE SOMEWHAT THE SAME TODAY.

WE REALLY CAN DO LITTLE MORE
THAN ENCOURAGE YOU
TO FOLLOW YOUR OWN DREAMS
AND TO LET YOU KNOW
" WE ALL BACK YOU UP "

WE ALL HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE
TO GROW AS INDIVIDUALS
AND TO KEEP EDUCATING YOURSELVES
ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND YOU.

"TO TRUST AND BELIEVE IN YOURSELF IS
REALLY THE BEST ADVICE WE CAN GIVE."

YOU ARE UNIQUE --

EACH WITH SOME TALENT AND ENERGY

ONLY YOU CAN GIVE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

AND TO YOUR COUNTRY



WHAT MAKES AMERICA SPECIAL

IS THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL

MAKES HIS OWN DREAMS

AND LIVES IN AN ENVIRONMENT

WHERE THEY CAN COME TRUE.



WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE AMERICAN DREAM,
WE REALLY ARE TALKING ABOUT
THE COLLECTION OF ALL OUR DREAMS.
YOU GRADUATE WITH MANY EXPECTATIONS,
AND NO DOUBT WILL ENCOUNTER
DISAPPOINTMENTS AND SURPRISES.
BUT WHAT MAKES AMERICA EXCITING
IS THAT ALL OF US
CAN EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

YOU BEGIN WITH YOUR OWN HOPES AND TALENTS

AND WHAT HAPPENS

IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT YOU PLAN —

BUT IF YOU FOLLOW YOUR HEART

AND DISCIPLINE YOURSELF

TO BE THE ^{VERY} BEST YOU CAN ■,

I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND MANY REWARDS.

I THINK OF THE PARABLE
OF THE TALENTS IN THE BIBLE
AND OF THE MAN WHO USED
HIS ~~ONE~~ TALENT WELL —
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN OUR LIVES
IS NOT SO MUCH WHAT WE HAVE
IN THE WAY OF INTELLIGENCE AND TALENT,
BUT WHAT WE DO WITH THESE GIFTS. —

AS I WATCHED EACH OF MY CHILDREN GRADUATE,
I WANTED EACH OF THEM
TO HAVE THE STRENGTH
TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGES
AND THE COURAGE TO OVERCOME THE DISAPPOINTMENTS.

I DON'T BELIEVE THE CYNICS

WHO THINK THIS IS A BAD TIME FOR AMERICA. —

Yes, WE HAVE OUR PROBLEMS,

BUT WE ~~WE~~ ALSO HAVE THE COURAGE

TO FIND SOLUTIONS.

are

WE' ~~RE~~ PRESERVING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND OPPORTUNITY ●

IN THIS YEAR OF OUR BICENTENNIAL,

MAY YOU USE THAT LIBERTY AND OPPORTUNITY

AMERICA GIVES US

TO MAKE OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE ●

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

431 Fountain Street, N. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Wesley R. Perrin, Principal

May 7, 1976

Ms. Kaye Pullen, Assistant to Mrs. Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ms. Pullen:

On Monday, April 26, we received a telephone call from Ms. Susan Porter indicating that Mrs. Ford had accepted the invitation of Central High's senior class to attend its commencement exercises on June 7.

Ms. Porter requested that we send you some background information about Central High that Mrs. Ford might use in terms of preparing for her visit. In compliance with this request we are sending to you the following materials:

1. A list of Grand Rapids school officials, Board of Education members, Central High administrators, and senior class officers.
2. A resume of pertinent current information as it relates to Central High.
3. A page from the 1936 Helios with Mrs. Ford's graduation picture and a listing of the activities she participated in as a student.
4. Two pages from the 1935 Helios providing pictures and information on two organizations that Mrs. Ford was a member of.
5. Two articles from the 1962 Helios:
 - A. "Central in Review" - This article was written at the time Central celebrated its centennial and takes note of the long, rich history of Central High School!
 - B. "The New Buildings" - This article mentions some of the distinguished alumni of Central High.
6. A copy of the 1975 Helios.

In terms of our preparing for Mrs. Ford's visit, many questions have come to mind. We would appreciate your responding in writing to the following questions as soon as possible.

1. Our seniors are anticipating Mrs. Ford's visit with considerable enthusiasm. The final segment of the commencement exercises is the presentation of diplomas to the seniors. The seniors (about 400 will graduate) would be most grateful to Mrs. Ford if she would be able to greet each one personally as they receive their diplomas. Therefore, we would appreciate knowing the extent to which Mrs. Ford wishes to be involved in our program.

2. We are planning on having the following people on stage with Mrs. Ford:
- the superintendent of schools
 - the president of the board of education
 - the principal and the three assistant principals
 - the president of the senior class
 - the senior class advisor
 - the student council sponsor
 - two ministers who are fathers of our graduating seniors to deliver the invocation and benediction

We do not wish to distract from the real purpose of this occasion, the graduation of our seniors, by having too many people on stage. Ms. Porter also suggested that we conduct our ceremonies as we normally do. However, we do not wish to offend Mrs. Ford by overlooking someone who she might wish to occupy the stage with her. We would appreciate your reaction to this plan.

3. Is there any official music that is used when the First Lady makes an appearance? If so, where could copies of it be obtained?
4. What are Mrs. Ford's favorite flowers?
5. Is there any particular protocol that should be followed in terms of dress for individuals who will occupy the stage with Mrs. Ford?
6. When will Mrs. Ford be arriving in Grand Rapids?
7. If there is a reception for Mrs. Ford when she arrives, may we include our staff and senior class officers who issued the invitation?
8. How long will Mrs. Ford remain in Grand Rapids and what additional plans might she have while here?
9. Would Mrs. Ford wish to make any remarks other than the ones she will deliver at the time the presentations of the school and the senior class are made to her?
10. Will Mrs. Ford appear on stage at the beginning (proceSSIONal of graduates) of the ceremonies or wait until she is officially introduced?
11. Who is the advance person being sent out by the White House and when will he be in contact with us?
12. How does Mrs. Ford wish to have her name appear on the program that will be printed?
13. Is there a special charity to which Mrs. Ford wishes the honorarium to be sent in her name?
14. Would Mrs. Ford like to greet members of the Class of 1936 at a reception following the ceremonies?
15. Would it be possible for us to have some photographers back stage to take some candid shots of Mrs. Ford with those individuals who will appear on stage with her?

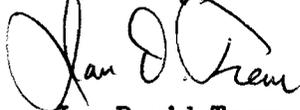
We are certain that there are other concerns that you have and details we should attend to. Any suggestions you could give us in addition to the information we are requesting would be deeply appreciated.

Mr. John Kirchgessner, assistant principal of Central High, is handling many of the details for us and is also serving as liaison to the school district's central administration. He may be reached by calling the

school at 459-0205 or his home at 452-4718. I also can be reached at the school number or at my home at 454-5647.

Preparations for Mrs. Ford's visit are going very well at this time. We are eagerly anticipating her visit and are working very hard to make this occasion one that she will thoroughly enjoy and long remember.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan David Treur". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jan David Treur
Senior Class Advisor