


SENATOR BOB GRAHAM'S

LEON HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1987

TALLAHASSEE



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GOOD AFTERNOON GRADUATES, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS...

I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE TODAY FOR TWO REASONS:

FIRST - BECAUSE THIS IS THE 80TH GRADUATING CLASS OF A GREAT HIGH SCHOOL AND YOU ARE AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF EXCELLENCE LEON HIGH SCHOOL HAS TRADITIONALLY PRODUCED.



SECOND - BECAUSE MY DAUGHTER, KENDALL IS GRADUATING AND IT MEANS A LOT TO ME TO BE ABLE TO SHARE THIS DAY WITH HER. KENDALL IS OUR FOURTH DAUGHTER TO GRADUATE FROM LEON HIGH SCHOOL.

MY WIFE, ADELE, AND I AND ALL THE GIRLS ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS TALLAHASSEE HAS GIVEN US -- NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH ARE THE NINE YEARS WE HAVE BEEN A PART OF LEON HIGH SCHOOL -- AND KNOWN SO MANY TERRIFIC STUDENTS AND TEACHERS AND PARENTS.

PEOPLE HAVE ASKED ME HOW KENDALL BECAME SO SPECIAL - AS A PROUD FATHER I CAN AGREE THAT SHE HAS MORE THAN HER SHARE OF INTELLIGENCE AND CHARM AND BEAUTY, AND I CAN TELL YOU, WITH ALL DUE MODESTY, THAT OUR FAMILY HAS ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGED THE SOURCE OF KENDALL'S SPECIAL QUALITIES.

INTELLIGENCE, CHARM AND BEAUTY ARE HEREDITARY, KENDALL TAKES  
AFTER HER MOTHER.




I KNOW ONE OF THE REASONS YOU ARE SO HAPPY TO BE HERE TODAY IS BECAUSE YOU MADE IT THROUGH ONE LAST SET OF FINAL EXAMS. IT WAS TOUGHER FOR YOUR CLASS ACADEMICALLY THAN IT HAS BEEN FOR LEON SENIORS IN THE PAST.



THIS YEAR, YOU, AND THE OTHER GRADUATING SENIORS IN THE  
STATE OF FLORIDA HAVE BEEN HELD TO THE HIGHEST ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
IN THE HISTORY OF THE STATE -- AND YOU'VE PROVEN YOU CAN HANDLE  
THE CHALLENGE.



IN 1980, WHEN OUR ELDEST DAUGHTER, GWEN, GRADUATED FROM LEON  
HIGH, ONLY HALF OF THE SENIORS HAD TAKEN 4 YEARS OF MATH CLASSES.  
81% OF YOU HAVE HAD FOUR YEARS OF MATH.

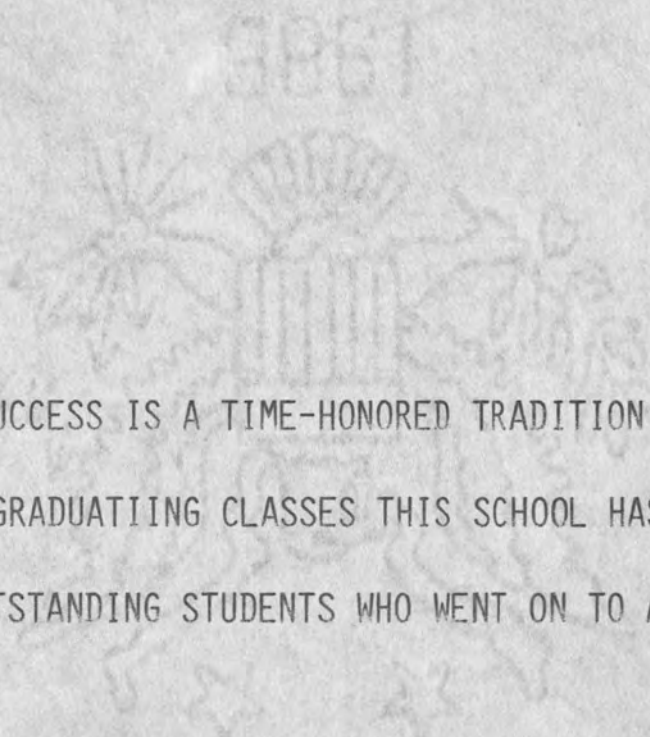


IN 1980 -- 11% OF THE GRADUATING CLASS HAD STUDIED A FOREIGN LANGUAGE. MORE THAN TWICE AS MANY OF YOU HAVE HAD AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING.

ONLY 25% OF THE 1980 CLASS HAD ONE OR MORE YEARS OF SCIENCE. OVER 95% OF YOU HAVE TAKEN AT LEAST THREE YEARS OF SCIENCE.

YOU'VE HAD TO WORK A LOT HARDER TO FINISH ALL OF THAT, BUT  
YOU'RE BETTER PREPARED, BETTER EDUCATED. YOU'VE TESTED YOURSELVES  
IN MORE IMPORTANT WAYS THAN JUST FINAL EXAMS.


YOU'VE PROVEN YOU'RE NOT AFRAID TO MEET CHALLENGES -- AND  
YOU'VE PROVEN YOU CAN HANDLE SUCCESS.



SUCCESS IS A TIME-HONORED TRADITION AT LEON HIGH. IN THE  
EIGHTY GRADUATING CLASSES THIS SCHOOL HAS SEEN THERE HAVE BEEN  
MANY OUTSTANDING STUDENTS WHO WENT ON TO ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS.

FORMER FLORIDA GOVERNOR, LEROY COLLINS WAS A LION. SO WERE  
ATHLETES RAINEY CAWTHON, BUBBA HALL, TOMMY CURTIS AND CLIFFORD  
CHARLTON.

FAYE DUNAWAY, CLASS OF '59, WON AN ACADEMY AWARD. TOM  
BIXLER, CLASS OF '63 IS A HEART TRANSPLANT SURGEON HERE IN  
TALLAHASSEE. ROSEMARY MCGROTHA, CLASS OF '76, IS A WORLD-FAMOUS  
MODEL.




THE LIST OF LEON GRADUATES WHO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED GREAT THINGS IS TOO LONG TO MENTION. SOME DAY SOME OF YOUR NAMES WILL BE ADDED TO THAT LIST.

WE KNOW THAT BECAUSE AS MEMBERS OF THIS STUDENT BODY YOU HAVE ALREADY SHOWN HOW MUCH YOU CAN DO.

\* YOUR BAND WAS JUDGED "SUPERIOR" FOR THE 38TH STRAIGHT YEAR  
IN STATE RATINGS.

\* THE "HIGH LIFE" AND THE LIONS' TALE ARE "ALL AMERICAN" AND  
"ALL FLORIDIAN."





\* THE LATIN CLUB CAME IN 4TH IN THE STATEWIDE LATIN FORUM.

*slow*  
\* YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN NAMED THE BEST IN THE STATE  
BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

\* THIS YEAR, AGAIN, YOU HAVE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS, AS YOU  
HAVE EVERY YEAR SINCE 1958.



STAR: Girls Cross Country  
Summer of: Soccer, Baseball  
gol


Boys & girls  
Boys & girls

YOU WON EIGHT DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN GOLF, CROSS COUNTRY,  
SOFTBALL, FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, <sup>soccer</sup> YOU HAVE ONE OF THE BEST-IF NOT THE BEST  
BEST-OVERALL SPORTS PROGRAMS IN FLORIDA.

AND AS PARENTS WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF YOUR SAT SCORES --  
ABOUT 100 POINTS HIGHER THAN THE STATE AND NATIONAL AVERAGES.

Slow

YOU ARE A POSITIVELY INTIMIDATING GROUP OF OVERACHIEVERS.



SOME PEOPLE WILL TELL YOU THAT THESE HAVE BEEN THE BEST  
YEARS OF YOUR LIVES. I'LL TELL YOU THAT I THINK THEY'VE JUST BEEN  
A WARM-UP.

YOU FACE CHOICES AND CHALLENGES AS YOU LEAVE THE SCHOOL WHICH HAS BEEN YOUR HOME AND THE FRIENDS WHO HAVE BEEN YOUR WORLD FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS. SOME OF YOU WILL BE GOING ON TO COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES OR THE MILITARY. SOME OF YOU WILL SEEK FURTHER VOCATIONAL TRAINING. SOME OF YOU ALREADY HAVE FULLTIME JOBS WAITING.

BUT NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO FROM NOW ON - YOU WILL BE TESTED.

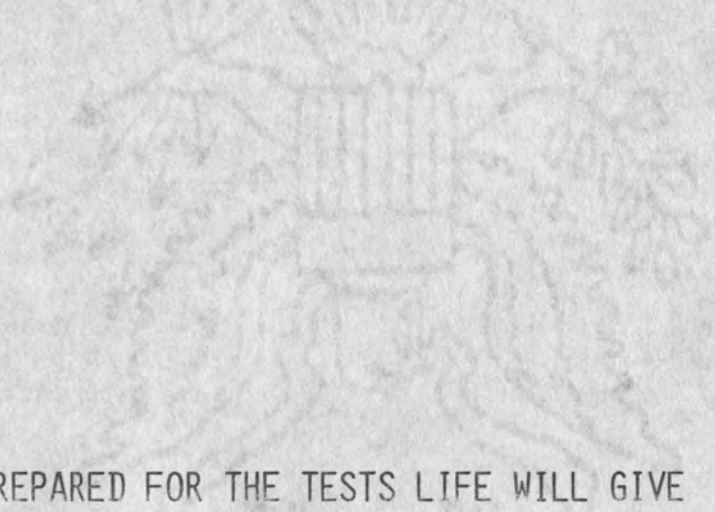
\* EACH DAY WILL BE A TEST OF HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT FINDING  
HAPPINESS.

\* EACH NEW PERSON WHO COMES INTO YOUR LIFE WILL BE A TEST OF  
YOUR LOVE AND LOYALTY.

\* EACH ACADEMIC OR CAREER MOVE WILL BE A TEST OF YOUR MATURITY AND YOUR DESIRE TO SUCCEED.

\* EACH SORROW YOU ENCOUNTER WILL BE A TEST OF YOUR RESILIENCE AND CHARACTER.

\* EACH JOY WILL BE A TEST OF YOUR APPRECIATION AND GENEROSITY.



BY NOW, YOU ARE WELL-PREPARED FOR THE TESTS LIFE WILL GIVE YOU. THESE FOUR YEARS AT LEON HIGH SCHOOL HAVE BEEN AN EXCITING AND ENRICHING TIME FOR YOU. THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WILL BE EVEN BETTER.

WHILE YOU'VE BEEN BUSY WINNING AWARDS AND STUDYING FOR ALL THESE TESTS AND HAVING A GOOD TIME - WE, YOUR PARENTS, HAVE BEEN TESTED, TOO.

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURES OF HOW WELL WE HAVE  
SUCCEEDED IN LIFE IS HOW OUR CHILDREN TURN OUT. WE OFTEN TRY TO  
PUT THE BEST FACE ON THINGS IN OUR JOBS AND IN SOCIAL SETTINGS.  
BUT OUR CHILDREN KNOW WHO WE REALLY ARE. AND, FOR BETTER OR  
WORSE, THEY TEND TO TAKE ON OUR CHARACTERISTICS AND ABSORB OUR  
VALUES.

WHO OUR CHILDREN ARE IS A REFLECTION OF WHO WE ARE, KENDALL,  
TODAY I WANT TO THANK YOU -- AS I'M SURE EVERY PARENT WANTS TO  
THANK THEIR GRADUATE -- FOR GIVING US SUCH A GOOD REPORT CARD,  
WE'RE PROUD OF YOU AND OF ALL YOUR SUCCESS, IT HAS BEEN A GREAT  
JOY AND A GREAT HAPPINESS TO BE YOUR PARENTS, WE LOVE YOU -- VERY  
MUCH.



THIS IS A DAY FOR US TO APPLAUD ALL YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. BUT  
I'D LIKE TO ASK THE CLASS OF '87 TO STAND FOR A MOMENT AND  
APPLAUD THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SO PROUD OF YOU TODAY -- YOUR PARENTS.



WE, YOUR PARENTS, HAVE STRUGGLED TO GIVE YOU ROOTS AND  
WINGS. ROOTS TO ANCHOR YOU IN LIFE'S STORMS AND TO LET YOU KNOW  
YOU CAN ALWAYS TURN TO US. WINGS TO LIFT YOU UP TO THOSE DREAMS  
WHICH FILL YOUR HEART AND MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD.

WE WANT YOU TO FEEL SAFE AND PROTECTED. WE WANT YOU TO BE  
BOLD AND UNAFRAID.

TODAY YOU JOIN THE COMPANY OF SOME OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED  
INDIVIDUALS OUR STATE HAS PRODUCED. TODAY YOU MARCH OUT FROM HERE  
INTO A WORLD WHICH NEEDS YOUR TALENTS AND YOUR SKILLS AND YOUR  
CARING -- AS IT HAS NEEDED WHAT LEON HIGH GRADUATES HAVE HAD TO  
OFFER FOR THE LAST 80 YEARS.

GOD BLESS YOU AND GOOD LUCK.

grads:

1980

1987

4yr math

358

183

51%

370

301

81%

for lang.

39

11%

87

23.5%

Science

98

25%

353

95.4%

183 - just under 50%

$$\begin{array}{r} 390 \\ 391 \\ \hline 590 \\ 2500 \\ \hline 2789 \\ 25820 \\ \hline 28609 \\ 13 \\ \hline 28622 \\ 1850 \\ \hline 30472 \\ 3530 \\ \hline 34002 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{183}{358}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 370 \\ 850 \\ \hline 1850 \\ 2960 \\ \hline 31450 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 301 \\ 370 \\ \hline 370 \\ 80 \\ \hline 29600 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 70 \\ 870 \\ \hline 90 \\ \hline 23300 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} .51 \\ 358 \overline{)183.00} \\ \underline{1790} \\ 400 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} .813 \\ 370 \overline{)301.000} \\ \underline{2960} \\ 500 \\ \underline{370} \\ 1300 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} .954 \\ 370 \overline{)353.000} \\ \underline{3330} \\ 2000 \\ \underline{1850} \\ 1500 \\ \underline{1480} \\ 200 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} .235 \\ 370 \overline{)87.000} \\ \underline{740} \\ 1300 \\ \underline{1110} \\ 1900 \\ \underline{1850} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} .245 \\ 358 \overline{)98.000} \\ \underline{716} \\ 1640 \\ \underline{1432} \\ 2080 \\ \underline{1790} \\ 290 \end{array}$$

25

$$\begin{array}{r} 109 \\ 358 \overline{)39.000} \\ \underline{3200} \\ 8000 \\ \underline{7160} \\ 8400 \\ \underline{7160} \\ 12400 \\ \underline{11100} \\ 13000 \\ \underline{11100} \\ 19000 \\ \underline{17900} \\ 21000 \\ \underline{19000} \\ 20000 \\ \underline{17900} \\ 21000 \\ \underline{19000} \\ 20000 \end{array}$$

MIKE CONLEY  
LEON HIGH 904/488-1971

enrollment by seniors

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1987</u>
Math	183	301
Science	98	353
For. Language	39	87
Tot. Enrollment	358	370

requirements for graduation

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1987</u>
overall credits	20	24
English	3 yrs.	4 yrs.
Math	2 yrs.	3 yrs.
Science	1 yr.	3 yrs.
For. Language	00	2 yrs.

kisses. Ellie

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Shipwreck - after historical predicate we need:

middle p. 2 fl. nat'l leader -

1st sentence & last sentence don't have  
a reflex.

<sup>Counts</sup>  
Fed admiralty law <sup>is</sup> not superior to state law -  
admiralty - who ever funds/owns vessel.  
what problem this bill trying to correct?  
How this bill rectify that?

(talk to  
Conroy)

mention of outstanding things  
1/2 doz. most noteworthy accomp -  
acad extra curric.

We are proud - you've worked hard  
succeeded - made up proud - proud of  
selves & confident about future.

school oriented - (luck & camaraderie)

some Amer. values lost - alien - L.H.S.

people care about each other -

enthusiastic about success -

Strud Pignot D. Drug.

racial & ethnic mix.

if instead of your likes you  
could like in community has  
as much generosity & love.

leons

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 27, 1987

TO: BG

FROM: Beverly

RE: Kendall graduation

Folo's list from Mike Conly of outstanding Leon High grads:

1913...Bessie Temple Jones...oldest living Leon grad. (95)

1916...Walter T. Moore...Leon County schoolboard chairman in 50s  
& 60s...circuit judge

\*\*\*\*\*

1927...Leroy Collins...former Governor of Florida

1927...Rainey Cawthon...All American at UF in 60s...built FSU  
stadium

\*\*\*\*\*

1930s (Late)...Joe Eaton...state supreme court justice  
...Harry Mitchell...distinguished WWII vet/ silver  
star/ 5 purple hearts/prominent lawyer.  
...Godfrey Smith...President Capital City  
Banks/developer

\*\*\*\*\*

1944...Mallory Horne...Speaker of House/President of FL  
Senate/lawyer/indicted for drugs, acquitted.

1949...Jay "Bubba" Hall...circuit judge/great athlete/All  
American at UF/NCAA high jump champ (twice?)

\*\*\*\*\*

mid-50s...Brad Davis...actor

1956...Mike Oksenberg...Jimmy Carter's China negotiator...now  
prof. (Economics?) at U Mich.

1957...Gail Nelson...Leon County Commissioner



1958-9...Faye Dunaway...Academy Award winning actress

1958...Glenn Page...neurosurgeon in Jax

\*\*\*\*\*

1960-1...Herb Morgan...Speaker House of Representatives/real estate

1963...Tom Bixler...heart surgeon in TLH (only one)

1964 (?)...Barbara Palmer...Leon High cheerleader became first woman athletic director of FL State University

1965...Tommy Curtis...3 NCAA championship teams at UCLA

\*\*\*\*\*

1970s (late)...John Rhodes...highest SAT score in this galaxy/now prof at MIT/Harvard

1976...Rosemary McGrotha...famous model/Vogue/Glamour/TV

\*\*\*\*\*

1981...Laurie Danello...cabaret singer in N.Y.

1983...Joe Manausa...grad. West Point...MVP in football

1984...Clifford Charlton...first team All America/UF this year

Be extremely cool:  
& Shubap

We've been tested you get diploma -  
(The kids made the difference -)

Get memo

1. success in educ. use learn - ~~learn to read~~ -
2. why for today: lot of happiness - ability -  
to see each day as oppo. of challenge -  
this class understood that -  
best 4 yrs?

expecting thing - need 4 yrs even better

→ 3. parents - students stand up + applaud  
parents - -

4. kids period of testing - we parents tested -  
most sign. why charact. judged how  
well child come out - your charact.  
to program as they are -

5. roots + wings.

Roots to grow.

Wings to fly.

(Over 80 yrs grad people who contrib. in area -  
community state national world - you're better  
prepared to go out & make them proud - ... etc.)  
K. is 4<sup>th</sup> daughter. ∴

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

Kendall Speedi:

short -

upbeat -

optimistic (not by policy statement)

One theme - develop - to parents. A lot of ways people judged in life - success or failure how well children turn out -

Tempted to put the best face on things  
Can't do it with own children - see you as you are & tend to adopt your character  
That's why forgiving us such a good report card - joy & happiness that experience has given us.

a couple - good solid citizens - blacks & some women - a teacher - or generations

tradition important - not just display - real human beings.

Fourth daughter -

people have asked me how I become so special - intelligence & beauty.  
She took after her mother.

KENDALL COMMENCEMENT

DRAFT 1 DRAFT 1 DRAFT 1

GOOD MORNING GRADUATES, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND FRIENDS...

I'm happy to be here today for two reasons:

First - because this is the 80th graduating class of a great institution and you are an example of the kind of excellence Leon High School has traditionally produced.

Second - because my daughter, Kendall is graduating and it means a lot to me to be able to share this day with her.

People have asked me how Kendall became so special - as a proud father I can agree that she has more than her share of intelligence and charm and beauty. And I can tell you, with all due modesty, that our family has always acknowledged the source of Kendall's special qualities. Intelligence, charm and beauty are hereditary. Kendall takes after her mother.

You face choices and challenges as you leave the school which has been your home and the friends who have been your world for the last four years. Some of you will be going on to junior colleges or universities. Some of you will seek further vocational training. Some of you already have fulltime jobs waiting.

But all of you have the same legacy to live up to -- no matter where your lives take you -- no matter what careers you choose. Today you join the company of some of the most distinguished individuals our state has produced. Today you march out of here into a world which needs your talents and your skills and your caring -- as it has needed what Leon High graduates have had to offer for the last 80 years.

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

87

Student Government -

State Ath. best 5 in state of Ath.

SAT scores

about: 100 pts. higher over state av.  
over national.

Latin Club - 4<sup>th</sup> in state.

Latin Forum

Science - 50% all local dist

Science Fair won by local student  
one national winner Science fair comp.

Scholarship

Nat'l Merit winners every yr since  
comp began since 1956 -

Band - 38 straight yr. Superior  
state ratings.

Ath.

8 dist championships. <sup>all</sup> Cross country  
baseball <sup>softball</sup>  
Award best overall sports

best in city  
best overall in state by 2013.

newspaper.

Highlife  
Lion's Tale  
in book  
Integrity

Journalism - all American award -  
newspaper & yearbook.

(M. Herald judge newspaper)

Grand 80 yr. Reunion

BOB GRAHAM  
FLORIDA

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 26, 1987  
To: Beverly  
From: Ken  
Re: Leon graduation speech

FYI: Leon High School has some outstanding students in journalism. The student newspaper has been designated "All American," which means it ranks in the top 3 percent in the nation.

The newspaper ranks second in Florida.

The yearbook has won the "All Florida Award." Photographers from Leon won three out of six first-place awards in statewide competition, and two second-place awards.

(Contact: Judy Steverson (904) 488-7209

chador

once upon a time, in a kingdom by the sea, there lived an

**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

old king, a fierce dragon and a beautiful princess.

Leon High Commencement Speeches

notes 6-3-87

(Adele wonders about singling out some outstanding kids for mention - is this fair to those who don't get mentioned?)

This last week of school -

in past Seniors exempted from exams.

How much you've all enjoyed the opp'ty to take exams -

There are 2 groups of people -  
life - you felt last exam - life is constant series of us being tested -

Leon H.S. tested by balance of you, life  
reason for living past study influence -  
as constructive citizens

you are going to be tested

(in jobs, further education -  
in life itself - your parents later on  
any test -) ...

School spirit & pride - (declare victory, death in prob & won - when Green grad in 1980 - only 5 students

Research → 4 eps math today 110

3 eps foreign language

Academic excell.