

Graduation Speech - Alhambra High School

CJ Cammack, Superintendent

June 9, 2017

Good Evening. I would like to begin by offering my thanks to a few incredible groups of people.

First, to the parents, guardians, and family members in the audience, I would like to thank you for entrusting us, the staff of Martinez Unified School District with your children. As a father, I know there is nothing more important in my life than my children. It is my promise that for these students and all future students of Martinez Unified, we will not take for granted what a privilege it is to be entrusted with such great responsibility.

Second, I would like to thank our AHS staff members. From teachers, to support staff, you have provided the environment for success and fostered excellence in these students. Each of you plays a vital role in a student's high school experience, and I am certain many students here tonight can attribute their individual success to one of our great teachers, counselors, coaches, or support staff members.

Now, to our graduating class of 2017! This is such a cool experience for me to be here tonight as the Superintendent. As many of you know, I was luck enough to be your elementary school principal many years ago. A lot has changed over those years, but a lot has remained the same. Back then, I was speaking to you in front of you in the lunchroom, and you were just dying to be the first table excused so you could get to recess faster. Tonight, you just want me to stop talking so you can come up and get your diploma. I loved being a part of your education back then and it gives me great pride to see you here tonight.

In preparing this speech, I thought about all the advice people have offered me, and let me tell you, when you are the boss, everyone has some advice you! My advice to you tonight, is the most valuable advice I ever received, this advice was passed to me from my Grandfather. Before my grandfather left to serve in World War II, my Grandmother gave him this bracelet, it brought him home safely and it was passed to me after his death. I still wear the bracelet today. You only need to remember three things. Engraved on the bracelet was his name and his ID# numbers. On the back of the bracelet, it says three things:

Be Good Be Careful Be Smart

Be Careful with your life and your time. I promise, you can still have the best times of your life without being reckless. It is your life to live, but those closest to you will always be impacted by your words, your actions, and your decisions. Be careful with your time, spend it doing things you love, spend it with people you love, spend time with people who care about you, find people that challenge you to be better than you are today,

Be Smart. Yes, you are here, you were taught by the best, you are already very intelligent individuals. But, remember to also be smart, be smart about your choices. Be smart enough to know when your right, be smart enough to know when you are wrong. Be smart enough to apologize. Be smart enough to listen, especially to your parents. Be smart enough to ask for help. Be smart enough to remember that you are in control. Every goal you set, can be accomplished.

Be Good! Be good to each other! Be someone others can always count on. Be good to your community, be an active in your community. Be good and to give back to those who may have helped you. Be good to our youth. They are counting on you to set the example. Be good to

yourself. Be good, by having the courage to help build a place of love, acceptance, and diversity.

Be Good, Be Careful, Be Smart, and while you are doing all that, always be proud of coming from this great school, this community, and **BE PROUD TO BE A BULLDOG!**