

Class of 2003
Francis Marion Graduation Speech

➤ Today is about celebrating a milestone (Looking back and looking forward)

At personal level and state level make mention of two additional

Fred – remarkable President

President Kurt Beck, Rhineland Palatinate –thank you leadership - -sister state in Germany - -- 10 years, difference - 33 percent of all investment

Back – Smell the flowers because you accomplished something special
Parents, grandparents, and friends

Forward – Leaving safe harbor – Francis Marion – For uncharted waters

On this momentous occasion – Dr. Carter what to talk about: “something you know”

It struck me I know something about boys - -remarkable creatures: wife and I 4 of them

1. family lessons, invisible but real –germs and bacteria
2. science (physics) experiment
3. bucket over the head - - not just them, I have had the same
4. Asked to introduce Lindsey Graham years ago (Godfather)

Dr. Carter, How about something else...

Graduation message: Don't walk through life with a plastic bucket over your head.

- Sounds easy, but 80%
- What can you see – can't lead

Crisis – (Not terrorism, energy, education, China), but leadership

Reason I'm here – Challenge – Beg – All of you to become leaders
 In every great crisis, in every non profit meeting, board meeting, school board meeting, military endeavor, people look to, and ask for, leadership. In the wake of the *World Trade Centers*, people ask, what does it mean? Where go from here?

If you are willing to accept my challenge –

Couple of Keys:

1. Live your dream: Rudy Ruettiger

True story about Rudy Ruettiger (five foot tall, mediocre student) football at Notre Dame. Won respect because of relentless pursuit of his dream.

In the final moments of the final game in 1975 against Georgia Tech, the coach put him in for the first time ever and he tackled GT's quarterback.

Look to your left, look to your right (God's plan) –Different plan different dream

- People who have achieved greatness and led in a human endeavor have been willing to march to their own drum.

- Ted Turner/CNN. (Wasn't conventional wisdom)

- Wright Brothers/Air

- McArthur? Inchon (September 15, 1940)

- I wanted to be a cowboy, but Mom dentist

2. Focus on that dream: Be Denzel Washington in "Remember the Titans"

- Virginia in 1971 ... racially polarized community... four high schools in Alexandria VA, were reorganized into one fully integrated school, T.C. Williams High School ... Denzel Washington plays coach Herman Boone, a tough coach who's given the task of bringing people together
- The Titans finished the 1971 season as state champions with a 13-0 record.

On the theme of Focus or Concentration: John Maxwell, a New York Times bestselling author, recently wrote, "Thinking for a Change". 11 Ways highly successful people approach life and work.

Chapter 2: Unleash the potential of focused thinking. Emerson, "Concentration is the secret of strength in politics, in war, in trade, in short, in all management of human affairs."

One step further, David Belasco, "If you can't write your idea on the back of my business card, you don't have a clear idea."

- Boys Scouts
- Marines
- Fed Ex
- McDonalds

3. Commit the course to paper

- Founding fathers – Constitution
- Business – Plan
- Military – 5 Paragraphs

- Stephen Ambrose: D-Day
- Amount of preparation of Operation Overlord

(Family constitution/Values)

4. Live the Army – “Be All You Can Be”

Matthew 25:14-25

For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents more came forward saying, "Master you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter in the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

(Whatever you have, use it) →

Some of you don't have the same talents others have – (Who Cares?)

5. Just be persistent

-- Calvin Coolidge, "Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not, nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not, unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not, the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."

6. Finally, Have a course that includes others

A life about yourself in the end is a meaningless life

And if you want to go one step further than meaning to be a great leader you have to serve a purpose bigger than you are - - you have to be a servant

Said a lot of ways:

Rich Warren - - Purpose Driven Life "It's not about you"

Jim Collins book, *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap...And Others Don't*. It examines those that excelled v. those that had not and highlights 5 management qualities, top of which is:

"Level 5 leaders channel their ego needs away from themselves and into the larger goal of building a great company. It's not that Level 5 leaders have no ego or self-interest. Indeed, they are incredibly ambitious – but their ambition is first and foremost for the institution, not themselves."

A story I have always liked: combines service and persistence

Shackleton - Epiz
Story of survival

Sir Ernest Shackleton – (August 8, 1914 / he and 27 sailors) Struck out from Plymouth, England on three-masted Norwegian vessel "Polaris," renamed ship "Endurance." Family motto: "By endurance we conquer." On Jan 18, 1915, became stuck in ice flows 1,200 miles from civilization. Spent 10 months stuck in ice flows, and in Nov., boat was crushed by ice and sank.

In April 1916, set out on three small life boats and made it to uninhabited Elephant Island. On May 10 Shackleton and 5 of the 27 man crew then took largest life boat, James Caird, from there and sail 800 more miles to South Georgia Island. Landed on uninhabited side, and trekked for nine days by land to the port. On August 30, 1916, after three tries on the Chilean Tug boat Yelcho Shackleton returned to Elephant Island to retrieve the rest of the crew.

South
Georgia
Island -

Pavlov

“Shackleton’s popularity among those he led was due to the fact that he was not the sort of man who could do only big and spectacular things,” Worsley wrote.

“When occasion demanded, he would attend personally to the smallest details, and he had unending patience and persistence, which he would apply to all matters concerning the well-fare of his men.”

Shackleton believed that quite ordinary men were capable of heroic feats if the circumstances required; for him, the weak and the strong *must* survive together.

I think he was right and, if you do these things:

1. Live your dream
2. Focus on that dream
3. Commit it to paper
4. Live the Army “Be All You Can Be”
5. Persistent
6. Serve others

You will be a leader, you will make a difference.

We look forward to watching your successes.