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REMARKS BY U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN A. VOLPE BEFORE THE
LA SALLE MILITARY ACADEMY, OAKDALE, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, TUESDAY,
MAY 9, 1972, 1:30 p.m.

I am delighted and honored to have the opportunity to be with you
today on the occasion of the inauguration of the General Dwight D.
Eisenhower Scholarship Fund.

My heartiest congratulations to La Salle for honoring the memory of
this giant of a man with such a meaningful action. And of course my deepest
and most sincere congratulations to Cadet Kevin Nugent for being a young
man of a calibre sufficient to this challenge.

Kevin -- I have no intention of embarrassing you in the least here
today. As the father of a La Salle graduate -- and as a man who has
crossed the generation gap on a number of occasions over the years in
visits to schools and colleges across the Nation -- I know that sometimes
we adults could serve a greater good if we kept the words down to a minimum.

But I do want to point out that you have received more than just
scholarship aid from this fine school. You are receiving, at an early
age to be sure, a mantle of responsibility that more usually is reserved
for people a little older. But Brother Joseph assures me that you are up
to the task of receiving this accolade -- and I assure you that I will keep
my promise and not talk too much.

I want to bring back today the words of the great man who is honored by
this school -- General Dwight D. Eisenhower. On another spring afternoon --
on another campus -- in what, really, has become another era -- General
Eisenhower spoke the following words to the graduating class at the United
States Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1958. He said: "You have come to
appreciate the value of discipline, for discipline binds an organization
together and makes it effective in the performance of tasks that require
the coordinated efforts of its members. You are learning the functions of

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leadership and the need for it; you are being given opportunities to practice it. In doing many things together -- working, playing, observing cherished traditions, absorbing common conceptions of duty -- you are developing an abiding and priceless morale, a quality that encompasses loyalty, optimism, dedication, professional competence, and courage."

Let me review those three main thrusts -- that triumvirate of virtues that General Eisenhower selected out as milestones in a fruitful life.

Discipline. Leadership. Morale.

Think, for a moment, how those three words relate to the world in which we live.

Think of a totally undisciplined world -- a world without diplomacy, detente or deliberation. What if our world -- a world of three billion people -- had no rigidity to its spine, no muscle to back up its resolve, no determination to excel? How would any one -- or any group -- or any nation or state or city -- even begin to organize its human and natural resources in order to build a better life -- a better way of life?

Think too, of a world without leadership. Think of this Nation, for that matter, without a strong hand at the helm. Think of the temptations, the diversions, the possibilities for going astray. Think of the chaos in virtually any situation were there not a man who would stand up and say those two great words, "follow me."

And consider that word "morale." Think of what it means to an athletic team; or to a community; or, for that matter, to a religious order. Look it up in the dictionary. "Morale" means "a mental condition with respect to courage, confidence, enthusiasm, a willingness to endure hardship."

And so Kevin, I remind you of those three words -- knowing full well that your family heritage already reflects each of them with distinction and pride.

And to La Salle -- to its faculty, staff, friends and neighbors -- let me again endorse the naming of this scholarship fund for a man who will surely go down in history not only as a great American but as a great citizen of the world. A man who fought for the right, but a man who also knew that war is brutal, futile and -- as he put it -- "stupid."

In honoring him you make his thoughts and his deeds and his words live again. You recapture, for young men in their formative years, words General Eisenhower used at an Armed Forces Day dinner in 1954. He said: "We know how much we value our right to worship as we please, to speak as we please, to choose our own occupations, to try to give to our children the kind of training and faith that we believe will make them happiest. We know

the values we place on these things. If at times we seem to ignore them, If we are torn by doubts or current fears, or our attention is diverted by unworthy scenes, we still know that the heart of America is sound. And we know that because it is sound, we shall pass on to those a little younger than us the same kind of right to hold up their heads; to be proud both of opportunity and of their freedoms, of their liberties that we inherited."

My dear friends, you could find no better mortal man to honor here than the man who spoke those words.

Thank you.

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