

Holbrook High School Commencement Address
Andrew H. Card, Jr.
Holbrook, Massachusetts
June 6, 1992

Superintendent Spillane, Principle Sweeney, Reverend Smothers, Reverend St. Cyr [SAINT SEER], friends and family of this distinguished Class of '92, and deserving graduates.

I am truly honored to be here today. I've had the privilege of traveling around this country -- and, in fact, the world -- but there's nothing like coming home.

Especially when home brings you back in touch with so many family and friends -- friends in the truest sense of the word. So, I am delighted to be back home.

I remember 27 years ago sitting ⁱⁿ Holbrook High School's ^{gym (It was a rainy day)} ~~football field~~ in my cap and gown. I was very proud -- in fact, still am very proud -- to be part of the graduating class of 1965. At the time, we thought we were very special -- on top of the world.

The fact that we felt this way had a lot to do with people like John Spillane, who was our class advisor. It had a lot to do with teachers who cared about us, gave us a sense of self-worth and self-respect. Many of them are still here.

I remember well our class motto. "We are NOT born for ourselves." It's a motto that ~~almost got lost in this~~ ^{reservation} ~~country during the 1980s, but it~~ couldn't be more relevant

today. We are NOT born for ourselves. It will always hold true.

So, the people of Holbrook -- our teachers, our parents, our fellow students and others -- helped ^{our} ~~my~~ class to see beyond ourselves. They helped shape our sense of pride in our role, our school and this town.

I am really proud of my class -- ^{the} the class of '65." And I ~~am~~ ^{know} ~~but~~ there is a lot of pride in this class of '92!

Like me

You, too, have had help along the way. You have teachers who care about you at Holbrook High. People like your own class advisor, Fred Perrone [Pair-O-NEY], teachers like the former vice president of my class, Mrs. Andrea Cosindas.

They and so many others made certain not only that you are well educated, but well schooled in lessons of character. You are well prepared, in the words of your own class motto, to "Follow your dreams."

* * *

o Even in your wildest dreams four years ago, it would have been almost impossible to imagine how dramatically the world around us would change.

o Who would have dreamt that in the last four years you spent at Holbrook:

-- the ugly wall that divided Germany would be crushed, its pieces sold as novelties.

-- Poland would be free . . . *Lech Walesa*
Eastern Europe would be open to the world - the iron curtain literally

-- The Soviet Union would collapse *cut up*
since you entered HHS *torn down*

-- The whole of the Western hemisphere *has* would become democratic, with but one exception -- Cuba.

o I have been fortunate, blessed really, to see firsthand some of these breathtaking changes, to meet some of those responsible for them.

the Pope, Lech Walesa, Gorbachev, Thatcher, Major, Miasowa, Roh Tae Wo, Mandela, Popes, Presidents, PMs, Kings, Queens

from Moscow to
Baguio
Singapore
Melbourne
Cairo
Riyadh

-- Been to every continent except Antarctica.

lunch w/ healy
free market in Budapest

-- Yeltsin Popes, Presidents Kings, Queens
Primenisters

-- previous meeting

-- host at upcoming meeting

o

st

In so many these places I have said with pride: I'm
from Holbrook.

o Holbrook is a special place. It's special, first because
it is ours.

-- does not have pretensions

-- ^{values}
~~has~~ real families

-- ^{appreciates}
~~real~~ friends

-- ^{has real}
^ a sense of community

* * *

- o Every graduation speaker is expected to give some advice, so I won't resist the urge to trumpet a few of my own thoughts.

I say trumpet advisedly: Some would say I've blown hot air consistently over the years since I played trumpet for the Holbrook High band!

- o ^{IN THE WORDS OF THE} Great trumpeter Wynton Marsalis: *the only justification for looking down on anyone is that you are going to stop and pick them up.*

- o My boss, ^{PRESIDENT} George Bush, calls doing that being a "point of light."

- o There are many, many such points of light around us here in Holbrook:

- Herb Tucker

- Frank Leonard

- Hanette Wholander

- Skippy Graziano

Class of '92

*Town like
Music/spots*

*For yourselves
& those who
follow*

THE LIST IS ENDLESS.

- o This town is special. And, whether you like it or not, you're now and forever a special part of it.

- o I'd like to end with two stories that reinforce for me the importance of lending a hand, getting involved, of following your dreams.

- Havel

- Grandmother