

REMARKS OF REP. TANGRETTI

STATE POLICE CADET CAMP

AUG. 4, 1990

(USUAL GREETINGS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

HOW GREAT AN HONOR IT IS FOR ME TO ADDRESS THIS FIFTH GRADUATING CLASS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE CAMP CADET PROGRAM.

HOW GREAT A PLEASURE TO LOOK OUT AND SEE THE BRIGHT AND EXPECTANT FACES OF THE VERY BEST OF PENNSYLVANIA'S YOUTH.

HOW MUCH I WISH THE CYNICS AND THE CRITICS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE COULD BE STANDING WHERE I AM STANDING NOW...SEEING WHAT I AM SEEING NOW..AND REFLECTING ON THE TRUE STATE OF THOSE WHO WILL ONE DAY BE THE LEADERS OF OUR SOCIETY.

PAGING THROUGH OUR NEWSPAPERS,
FLIPPING THE CHANNELS ON OUR TV SETS,
SITTING THROUGH THE MOVIES...WE TOO
OFTEN GET A BADLY DISTORTED PICTURE OF
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A YOUNG AMERICAN
IN 1990.

WE ARE PRESENTED WITH PICTURES OF
DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE...TEENAGE
PREGNANCY AND SUICIDE...CRIME...
IDLENESS...LACK OF PURPOSE.

INCREASINGLY, THE FUNCTION OF THE
MAJOR MEDIA IN THIS COUNTRY SEEMS TO BE
NOT TO REPORT THE NEWS...TO PORTRAY
EVENTS AS THEY REALLY ARE...BUT TO
SHOCK, SURPRISE AND STARTLE THEIR
AUDIENCE.

IT'S BEEN SAID THE DEFINITION OF "NEWS" IS THAT IT MAKES THE READER OR LISTENER SAY "I DIDN'T KNOW THAT."

THAT'S WHERE THE DISTORTION ARISES. AND PEOPLE ARE LED TO DRAW THEIR CONCLUSIONS ABOUT 98 PERCENT OF OUR YOUTH FROM THE TWO PERCENT -- THE PRBLEM KIDS -- THE MEDIA CHOOSES TO TELL US ABOUT.

NOT THAT WE SHOULD IGNORE THEIR PROBLEMS. THEY ARE SERIOUS AND THEY ARE REAL...AND THEY NEED OUR COMPASSION, UNDERSTANDING AND HELP.

BUT FOR THIS MORNING, LET US RECOGNIZE THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE REPRESENTED HERE BY THE STATE POLICE CAMP CADET GRADUATING CLASS.

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO, LIKE MANY GENERATIONS BEFORE THEM, WILL GO ON TO BECOME THE BEDROCK OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND FROM WHOM OUR LEADERS WILL BE DRAWN.

YOU HAVE NO FINER MODELS THAN THOSE WHO HAVE GUIDED YOU THROUGH THIS CAMP -- THE MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE.

THE FIRST STATE POLICE ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTRY, THEY ARE STILL THE FINEST...AND AN INSPIRATION TO GENERATION AFTER GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

I ALWAYS REMEMBER MY OWN IMPRESSION OF THE STATE POLICE AS A YOUNG BOY...WE CALLED THEM "STATIES" THEN.

IMPECCABLY DRESSED, STANDING TALL
AND ERECT, COURTEOUS IN EVERY WORD AND
GESTURE...THEY WERE MY IDEA OF EVERYTHING
A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHOULD BE.

THERE WERE FEW WOMEN IN THE STATE
POLICE THEN, BUT I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE
FELT THE SAME ABOUT THEM. AND I'M TRE-
MENDOUSLY PLEASED THAT WOMEN ARE NOW
FULLY AND EQUALLY ADMITTED TO THE RANKS
OF OUR STATE'S TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT
ORGANIZATION.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU EVER WORK IN
THE FIELD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE
THINGS YOU'VE LEARNED HERE, THE PEOPLE
YOU'VE MET HERE, WILL HAVE AN INFLUENCE
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

IN MAY, 1962, ...LONG BEFORE ANY OF
YOU WERE BORN, A GREAT
AMERICAN...GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR
ADDRESSED ANOTHER GRADUATING CLASS OF
CADETS...THE CORP OF CADETS OF THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST
POINT.

HE CHOSE THE ACADEMY'S
MOTTO...DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY...AS HIS
THEME.

HIS WORDS WOULD APPLY EQUALLY WELL
TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AS TO
MILITARY OFFICERS... THE ACADEMY'S
EMPHASIS ON TEAMWORK, PHYSICAL FITNESS
AND MILITARY FUNDAMENTALS IS MUCH LIKE
WHAT YOU'VE EXPERIENCED HERE.

AND MOSTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE WORDS OF INSPIRATION YOU ARE NOT LIKELY TO HEAR ANYWHERE ELSE, I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE BY QUOTING LIBERALLY FROM HIS SPEECH.

"DUTY--HONOR--COUNTRY," MACARTUR TOLD THE CADETS. "THOSE THREE HALLOWED WORDS REVERENTLY DICTATE WHAT YOU OUGHT TO BE, WHAT YOU CAN BE, WHAT YOU WILL BE.

"THEY ARE YOUR RALLYING POINTS; TO BUILD COURAGE WHEN COURAGE SEEMS TO FAIL; TO REGAIN FAITH WHEN THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE CAUSE FOR FAITH; TO CREATE HOPE WHEN HOPE BECOMES FORLORN.

"THE UNBELIEVERS WILL SAY THEY ARE BUT WORDS, BUT A SLOGAN, A FLAMBOYANT PHRASE,

"EVERY CYNIC, EVERY HYPOCRITE...WILL TRY TO DOWNGRADE THEM EVEN TO THE POINT OF MOCKERY AND RIDICULE.

"BUT THESE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THEY DO. THEY BUILD YOUR BASIC CHARACTER; THEY MOLD YOU FOR YOUR FUTURE ROLES AS CUSTODIANS OF THE NATION; THEY MAKE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN YOU ARE WEAK, AND BRAVE ENOUGH TO FACE YOURSELF WHEN YOU ARE AFRAID.

"THEY TEACH YOU TO BE PROUD AND UNBENDING IN HONEST FAILURE, BUT HUMBLE AND GENTLE IN SUCCESS, NOT TO SUBSTITITUTE WORDS FOR ACTIONS, NOT TO SEEK THE PATH OF COMFORT, BUT TO FACE THE STRESS AND SPUR OF DIFFICULTY AND CHALLENGE;

"TO LEARN TO STAND UP IN THE STORM
BUT TO HAVE COMPASSION ON THOSE WHO
FAIL; TO MASTER YOURSELF BEFORE YOU SEEK
TO MASTER OTHERS; TO HAVE A HEART THAT
IS CLEAN, A GOAL THAT IS HIGH;

"TO LEARN TO LAUGH YET NEVER FORGET
HOW TO WEEP; TO REACH INTO THE FUTURE
YET NEVER NEGLECT THE PAST; TO BE
SERIOUS YET NEVER TO TAKE YOURSELF TOO
SERIOUSLY;

"TO BE MODEST SO THAT YOU WILL
REMEMBER THE SIMPLICITY OF TRUE
GREATNESS, THE OPEN MIND OF TRUE WISDOM,
THE MEEKNESS OF TRUE STRENGTH.

"THEY GIVE YOU A TEMPER OF THE
WILL, A QUALITY OF THE IMAGINATION, A
VIGOR OF THE EMOTIONS, A FRESHNESS OF
THE DEEP SPRINGS OF LIFE, A
TEMPERAMENTAL PREDOMINANCE OF COURAGE
OVER TIMIDITY, AN APPETITIE FOR
ADVENTURE OVER LOVE OF EASE.

"THEY CREATE IN YOUR HEART THE
SENSE OF WONDER, THE UNFAILING HOPE OF
WHAT NEXT, AND THE JOY AND INSPIRATION
OF LIFE.

"THEY TEACH YOU IN THIS WAY TO BE
AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN."

MAY YOUR EXPERIENCE HERE AT THE
STATE POLICE CADET CAMP HAVE TAUGHT
YOU... IN SOME WAY... THE MEANING OF
THOSE WORDS.

THANK YOU.

ANOTHER AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER AND DOCK WORKER ERIC HOFFMAN ONCE SAID, " THE ONLY WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO HAVE THE POWER TO SHAPE IT."

I BELIEVE WHAT YOU EXPERIENCED IN THIS PROGRAM WILL BE A LARGE STEP FORWARD IN THE JOURNEY OF SHAPING YOUR FUTURE AND THOSE GENERATIONS WHO FOLLOW. YOU MUST NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THE VALUES THAT YOU ABSORBED HERE, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS THAT PUBLIC SERVICE IS AN HONORED AND DESIRED PROFESSION. WHETHER IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OR SOME OTHER FORM YOU CAN BE PROUD BECAUSE EVERYDAY OF YOUR WORKING LIFE YOU ARE DEDICATED TO HELPING YOUR FELLOW AMERICANS. YOU ARE NOT DRIVEN BY PROFITS AND SALES FIGURES BUT BY POSITIVE WORDS AND ACTIONS THAT CREATE A MORE LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT.

TO PARAPHRASE THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR, PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, "PUBLIC SERVICE IS THE RENT WE PAY FOR OUR LIFE ON EARTH."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, LEAVE THESE CEREMONIES TODAY KNOWING THAT YOU ARE A MUCH BETTER PERSON BECAUSE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE STATE POLICE CADET CORP AND THAT YOUR LIVES COULD HAVE A VERY PROFOUND AND SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON OUR WORLD ONLY IF YOU WANT IT TO BE. YOU CAN TRULY PREDICT THE FUTURE BECAUSE YOU HAVE PLACED YOURSELF IN A POSITION TO SHAPE IT. THIS IS THE MOST WORTHY OF ALL GOALS.