

President's Corner

Your Journey



I was asked to be one of the baccalaureate service speakers for the Elgin High School 2024 graduation class. You can imagine the pride and joy I felt. As a proud 1978 graduate of Elgin High School and the current mayor of Elgin, Texas, I was ecstatic. My mind began to think back over my twelve-year journey; all my accomplishments, some of my failures, and challenges. When I think about my journey now as an adult, I realize that so much of my life growing up was preparing me for what I am doing now.

The senior class had this quote from Michael Josephson: “Take pride in how far you’ve come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don’t forget to enjoy the journey.”

I wish I had been told this 40-plus years ago when I graduated from high school. My mindset about life would have been a little different. Remember to enjoy the journey. So, below is the message I gave to them. Maybe someone who reads this will help you enjoy your journey and plant a few seeds.

“I want to give you a few nuggets to consider as you begin your next life stage.

You have completed a significant milestone in your life. You have completed 12 years of learning, filled with many experiences. Some may have been perceived as good, others as bad. You’ve experienced pain and heartaches, happiness and joy. In hindsight, you’ve made decisions that might not have been the best, but they were your choices at the time. When I graduated in 1978, my dad wanted me to become a nurse. We had a test given to juniors to determine what careers they might be interested in. My job was to help people, so the medical field or counseling was my choice. Now, the test was correct in that, yes, I like helping people, but there are so many careers that provide that avenue.

I didn’t want to become a nurse because I don’t do bedpans, not realizing there was so much more I could have done with a nursing degree – my choice. Ironically, I became a respiratory therapist, and it was just the other end of the spectrum. Who knew?

Each choice you make is a step in your journey. As I journeyed in my life with marriage and children, my career took so many turns because life continues to happen, and you make choices based on what is happening in your life.

Choice is the most powerful tool we have. Everything boils down to choosing. We exist in a field of infinite possibilities. Every choice we make shuts an endless number of doors and opens an infinite number. At any point, we can change the direction of our lives by a simple choice. It is all in your heart, hands, and mind.

Choose your friends wisely. People will come and go out of your life. When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.

Surround yourself with positivity. Wake up each day with a mind of gratitude and a heart of praise. Trials come to make you strong and resilient. The doors of opportunity are there.

Maya Angelou said, "Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."

I leave you with a quote from Martin Luther King, Jr., "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."

Submitted by Theresa McShan
EWTG President, 2023-2024