

**CHARGE TO THE CLASS
DECEMBER GRADUATES RECEPTION
DECEMBER 9, 1991**

**CLASS OF 1991, THIS IS A GREAT DAY. AND I CONGRATULATE YOU
AND YOUR FAMILIES, AS I WELCOME YOU TO THE FAMILY OF INDIANA
UNIVERSITY ALUMNI.**

**A FEW YEARS AGO -- IT MUST SEEM LIKE A LONG TIME NOW -- EACH OF
YOU SET OUT ON A CHALLENGING ROAD THAT LED TO THIS MOMENT.**

**IT WAS A NEW, UNKNOWN ROAD; CERTAINLY IT WAS DEMANDING. BUT
TODAY, YOU ARE HERE. THAT LONG JOURNEY IS BEHIND YOU; A NEW
ROAD LIES AHEAD.**

**I SHARE YOUR PRIDE, YOUR EXCITEMENT, AND THE WONDERFUL
SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT YOU HAVE EARNED.**

**OVER YOUR YEARS HERE I HOPE YOU HAVE FOUND MUCH TO GIVE YOU
JOY AS WELL AS UNDERSTANDING -- GOOD TIMES, GOOD FRIENDS,
NEW INSIGHTS AND NEW IDEAS, AND -- MOST IMPORTANT -- A SURER
SENSE OF YOUR OWN STRENGTHS, YOUR INDIVIDUALITY, AND YOUR
PERSONAL GOALS.**

**YOU MAY BE TEMPTED, AS YOU SET OUT FROM HERE, TO FOLLOW
ROUTES OTHERS HAVE DRAWN.**

IT MAY LOOK EASIER TO FIT INTO MOLDS CRAFTED BY OTHERS, OR TO GO AFTER THE PRIZES THAT OTHERS VALUE MOST -- TO BE, IN SHORT, SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOURSELF.

BUT YOU HAVE COME TO KNOW YOURSELF AND YOUR IDEALS.

THAT KNOWLEDGE SHOULD BE YOUR ROAD MAP. IT SHOULD LEAD YOU TO THE GOALS, THE SATISFACTIONS, AND THE SUCCESSES THAT ARE TRULY YOUR OWN.

YOU HAVE AMBITION AND ENERGY.

YOU HAVE MET TOUGH CHALLENGES TO EARN THE DEGREE YOU RECEIVE TODAY. NOW YOU LOOK AHEAD TO NEW CHALLENGES.

HOW WILL YOU USE THAT AMBITION AND ENERGY -- AND THE EDUCATION YOU HAVE GAINED HERE -- TO BUILD A REWARDING LIFE?

EACH OF YOU WILL BE DEFINED BY THE CHOICES YOU MAKE, BY THE USES YOU MAKE OF THE TALENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS WE CELEBRATE TODAY.

YOUR LIVES WILL BE SHAPED BY THE VALUES YOU HOLD. HOW WILL YOU DESCRIBE, THEN, FOR YOURSELF, A "REWARDING LIFE?"

WHAT KIND OF SUCCESS DO YOU LOOK FORWARD TO? WILL YOU, IN THE WORDS OF THE POET PHILIP LARKIN, MERELY "LISTEN TO MONEY SINGING?" WILL YOU CONFINE YOUR IDEALS OF SUCCESS AND ACHIEVEMENT TO MATERIAL REWARDS -- REWARDS THAT TODAY ARE SO WIDELY, AND SO VIGOROUSLY, PRESENTED AS GOLDEN?

I HOPE YOU LOOK MORE BROADLY ON THE REWARDS LIFE HAS TO OFFER, THAT YOU HAVE A LARGER NOTION OF THE SUCCESSES THAT TRULY COUNT.

THE EDUCATION YOU HAVE RECEIVED HERE, AND THE VALUES -- OF EXCELLENCE, COMMITMENT, AND SERVICE -- THAT ARE THE HEART OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY, HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY BY THE VISION AND SPIRIT OF GRADUATES SUCH AS YOU.

AT THE TURN OF THIS CENTURY A MIDWESTERN WOMAN NAMED BESSIE SMITH, WHO NEVER BEFORE HAD PUBLISHED A WORD, WON A NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SUCCESSFUL. "TO LAUGH OFTEN AND MUCH," SHE WROTE; TO WIN THE RESPECT OF INTELLIGENT PEOPLE AND THE AFFECTION OF CHILDREN; TO EARN THE APPRECIATION OF HONEST CRITICS; TO APPRECIATE BEAUTY; TO FIND

THE BEST IN OTHERS, AND GIVE THE BEST OF YOURSELF; TO LEAVE
THE WORLD A LITTLE BETTER, WHETHER BY A HEALTHY CHILD, A
GARDEN PATCH, OR A REDEEMED SOCIAL CONDITION;

TO KNOW THAT EVEN ONE LIFE HAS BREATHED EASIER BECAUSE YOU
LIVED. THIS IS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED."

I WISH EACH OF YOU SUCH SUCCESS. I AM CONFIDENT YOUR FUTURE
IS BRIGHT. MY THANKS FOR THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY.

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH -- WITH YOUR FRIENDS, WITH YOUR
TEACHERS, WITH INDIANA UNIVERSITY.

CONGRATULATIONS.