HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING SPEECH

FOR

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(WITH INTRODUCTION)

“THE TIES THAT BIND”

**INTRODUCTION:**

Hello everyone!!! It’s so great to be here and see all of your wonderful faces!! Each year we gather to reunite, share stories of our history together, and bring everyone up to date with the current events of our modern day hectic lives. Our homecoming celebrations are a gratifying and heartwarming way to demonstrate the theme of this year’s gathering. Our reunions acknowledge those ties that bind each one of us together and I am grateful and thankful to be so connected to our school, our heritage, and each one of you. I want to take a moment to wish a very special hello to the teachers who were there to witness and encourage our growth and education, and to all of the faculty, administrators, and supporters of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High School here with us today, we honestly would not be the same without you!! Your encouragement and guidance inspired us to take the paths we chose in life and for that we are all blessed and forever grateful. Thank you!

**SPEECH**

Welcome home everyone! On behalf of all of my classmates from the batch of 1988, welcome and thank you for sharing this year’s homecoming festivities. We are honored to serve as your hosts this year and we look forward to many years of homecoming celebrations spent together and with all of you. Twenty-five years ago, this was our home away from home. This is where we learned our lessons, forged our friendships, and plotted and planned what we would do and who we would become as adults. I cannot believe that a generation has passed since we were together, filling these halls and classrooms with laughter and our first really serious discussions, taking what we learned and applying those ideas to develop our lives. Who would have thought that we would be here, twenty-five years later, still celebrating? When we are young, we think everything will last forever. Our greatest responsibilities at the time, for most of us, were our household chores. We were on the verge of inheriting the future, and here we are!! We’re still together!!! Our ties are our bond, and it is a testament to all of those priceless lessons we learned here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that the friendships formed back then are as vital today as they were when we were teenagers.

When the English poet, Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote his famous work, “Ulysses,” he penned a line that rings so true for me as I look around and see all of you. He said, “I am part of all that I have met.” By that poetic statement, it is clear that Tennyson also believed in the ties that bind. Our friendships here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are deep and meaningful. Through memories of times shared, we become an integral part of one another’s existence, and although some of us may see each other no more than once a year, our connection is undeniable. (**If you want to get a little laugh, you can say**) … and by the way, I can’t help but think that our English Literature teachers who are sharing this homecoming with us will be very proud that I learned **THAT** lesson!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

There’s also an expression, “Make new friends and keep the old. One is silver and the other is gold!” I think we would all agree that although we’ve made some wonderful and lasting friendships in our adult years, nothing compares to the joy of being with people who really know **YOU**-your heart, your soul, your character and your secrets!! (**Wait for the laugh**) I know that my teachers and classmates from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ occupy a very special place in my heart, and no matter how far I may travel, no matter how long I might be gone, no matter what I face in my day to day life, just seeing my school friends brings me back to those days. The ties that bind me to the people I met here are not too tight, and they’re certainly not too loose. They don’t scratch, but they are very supportive. They hold me just firmly enough to remind me that there is a place where I belong; a place where I am a part of the history and heritage dedicated to the age old right of passage known as adolescence.

I am proud to be tied to such a fine school with such wonderful staff, students and graduates. I am thankful to be able to reach out to those ties and even if they are tested, their strength endures across miles and through decades. What more can anyone ask for? I want to congratulate all of my fellow students of batch 1988. The first twenty-five years have been a wonderful adventure and I look forward to many, many homecomings where we can all get together, reminisce, and reinforce those unbreakable ties that bind.

Thank you all!