**14528, Sedney Etienne-graduation**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome everyone to the graduation for this year’s Patient Care Technical and Home Health Aid graduating class. Today is a very important day for our graduates. They came here filled with hope to obtain training for a career in health care so they can help people. They also came with their own share of fears about what they could accomplish. But, our graduates stand here today, having completed the course they set for themselves.

Our students come to this school from different backgrounds and with different goals for their future. One goal they found they have in common is to work in the healthcare system to help the people in our communities receive the best care possible. There was a time when the only positions in health care were for doctors, nurses and pharmacists. Today with all the advancements in medicine there are so many opportunities in the medical field.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the parents, children, family members and friends for supporting them while they went through this rigorous training. Your faith in them made all the difference. I also want to thank the other members of our Board of Directors, our teachers who painstakingly taught our graduates all that they needed to know to complete their course of study. I know it was hard for all of you and your support for our students made all the difference in their academic success.

Today our graduates complete a season of study and learning. They will hold different positions when they go to their new jobs. But, each of them will use their many and varied new skills to help those in our community who need health care. There was a time when a town would be lucky to have even one doctor. As time went on more positions in the health care industry developed. Each job provides a necessary service to the people of our community. Each member of this graduating class will fill one of those many positions and provide needed medical care. Some will fill a technical position in a doctor’s office, clinic or hospital while others will go into the home of patients unable to travel to a doctor’s office. Each person here will provide valuable care to members of our community.

Tomorrow these graduates will each begin a new day in a new season of their lives. Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of their lives. Remember all those hopes and dreams that you brought with you when you came to school that first day. You have completed the first step toward those dreams. Now you must take the next step and make those dreams real. Each of you will face challenges in your new jobs. Each of you will have days when you question your choice to enter this career field. I encourage you not to let the challenges you will most certainly face discourage you from your goals and dreams. Learn from each experience, good or bad, and move forward to fulfill your dreams and goals to help those around you.

Remember, today is truly the first day of the rest of your life. Live it well and live it full.

Thank you