**EDUCATION SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LORRIE BLITCH**

Hello everyone and thank you all for giving me a few moments of your time. Today, as we honor the memory of those who have served our country and paid the ultimate price, it's more vital than ever to understand and to express respect for our country and its Constitution, our traditions, our faith, our families and our shared community. Part of the expression of that faith and respect is having the knowledge to observe and honor every aspect of our lives. Being able to know and appreciate all of our blessings in life is a direct benefit of having a strong, well rounded Christian education and of course, I advocate that it is a non-negotiable requirement for building and nurturing tomorrow's future.

There are several basics that form the foundation needed to live a meaningful life. In the process of nurturing and teaching our children, we need to make sure there is a thorough knowledge of the basics that form our selves and our culture. Strong foundations come from knowledge of our Constitution, Christian teachings, and the other lessons that form the fundamental building blocks of a

Well rounded life. G.K. Chesterton said, "Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another." Our children are truly our greatest and most astounding natural resource, but like all of God's treasures, although their potential is limitless, each child must be formed and shaped and guided to be the best version of themselves as they blossom into adulthood. Young people must be taught the Golden Rule. They must learn the importance of living by the Ten Commandments and they must want to learn and continue to absorb the teachings that will make them strong, informed, pro-active participants in the future of our families, our communities, and our country.

It takes a team, in partnership, to raise a healthy, alert, and responsive child. It takes parents and relatives who are actively engaged and really interested in raising their children. It takes enthusiasm and caring from neighbors, educational systems, and religious institutions, and the degree to which a child successfully responds to the encouragement around them guides us through the process of nurturing the child.

There is an old Chinese proverb that teaches us, "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people." Early childhood education carries our greatest promise for the future. As one man said, "Give me the child and I will show you the adult." Children are malleable, impressionable, eager, and willing to play. To instill a lifetime's worth of positive values at a young age is to set the stage for responsible, curious, informed and engaged adults.... ones that care about the world around them and who are willing to maintain and sustain the best this life and country have to offer.

It is urgent that we dedicate our resources and our energy to raising and educating well rounded, healthy, and responsive children. What is learned at a young age will truly last a lifetime... if the lessons and interests are reinforced.... and that is up to us. It's not just the teachers that have to be involved... families must take an active interest as well. Children must be taught at an early age to be respectful of one another. Our houses of worship must seize the opportunity to lead by example... to teach our youth the power of prayer, the wisdom to be found in Bible study, and the respect, compassion, and humility discovered in practicing the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule.

In Proverbs 22:6 we learn, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We know that from the moment a child is born, there are conditions present that impact every aspect of his or her development. It is up to us, as parents, educators, and adult guides to provide our children with the proper positive influences that will teach by example and guide by principle throughout every facet of life.

As we gather here today, on Memorial Day, it is important to remember what it means to be of service to our country and to one another. Holidays like this one are a time to take a moment to reflect and to acknowledge those in our lives that place country before comfort, honor before self. We, as Americans have a responsibility to honor our heritage and our Constitution and to make sure our traditions and principles are observed and respected and passed from generation to generation. That's our legacy, and as each one of us has been taught to know the meaning in our hearts of the privilege of being good, respectful, Christians and Americans, this is also the moment that we must recommit to our children and their children, to pass the knowledge so carefully taught to us to the next generations so that our country and its beauty, values, and principles continue to teach and inspire. Thank you all!