**GRADUATION SPEECH**

**FOR**

**MAHMOUD MOGHADAM**

Ladies and gentlemen, family and friends, faculty, administrators, and distinguished guests.... it’s a great honor and an even bigger privilege to be a part of these commencement exercises honoring the graduating class of 2019 from Touro University. Today we honor the future of the medical profession. As my classmates and I take the final steps to this podium... as we accept our diplomas and prepare to officially don our white coats, scrubs, and gear, I can’t help but look back on that day, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years ago, when I made the life altering choice to enter the world of professional medicine.... I had goals.... I set my course... I have chosen to become a Nurse Practitioner.... All of us trained and studied and prepared to get to this pivotal moment in our lives.... I must admit it’s even more overwhelming than any of us could have anticipated.... to be so close to the legendary... **BUFFET**!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) All that study has definitely whetted our appetites.... and I can’t think of a more exciting location to celebrate than right here in Las Vegas.... to paraphrase the famous line in the legendary movie, **Mame**, “Life is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death...” At least now we are qualified to treat the overeaters, the undereaters, and the ones with food allergies... (**Wait for the laugh**).

For what might be the only time in the history of Las Vegas, what happens here will thankfully **NOT** stay here... my fellow graduates and I have dedicated the last four years (**adjust as necessary**) of our lives studying, working, fulfilling residency and clinic requirements in areas including internal medicine, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, spending every waking hour... and there were **MANY**... in pursuit of the elusive “**pot of gold**” at the end of the medical school “rainbow.” .... a **decent night’s sleep**... (**Wait for the laugh**)... Yes.... so **close** to a legit sleep study program, yet so **far away** from “D**reamland**”....but it was all worth it. We have achieved our goal... We’ve reached the finish line... and we are poised to take our places in the medical professions with purpose and intention... to serve others... to heal... and to support and advance the condition of well being for all of those we encounter in our lives. To my former fellow students.... now my esteemed professional colleagues, never forget the lessons you’ve learned, witnessed, or experienced here at Touro University.... that is the foundation upon which we will build. Always remember that **caring** for patients with common sense, knowledge, and compassion, and treating a condition or a disease, no matter the ultimate prognosis, is critical in serving our patients and supporting each one to live active, engaged, fulfilled lives.

To our family members, friends, and colleagues that have encouraged and supported us with enthusiasm, patience, and more than a few meaningful hours... days... weeks... listening to us... worrying about our well being and stamina, praying we learned our lessons and passed our tests, thank you. We could not have done it without you. (**If you want, you can add**) Seeing the smiles on your faces now makes it all seem worthwhile...and if there were any kind of downside to all of the joy we feel and all of those smiles we see, keep this in mind... most of us might now be able hook you up with complimentary **BOTOX**!!! Friends and family special!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)

As I complete my thoughts... and before someone “gets the hook” and drags me offstage, there’s one more thing I would like to share. It’s lyrics from a song that I heard long ago.... and so aptly expresses my sentiments today:

“It's been a long [road](https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Road), getting from there to here.  
It's been a long [time](https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Time), but my time is finally near.  
And I will see my [dream](https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Dream) come alive at last.

I will touch the sky.  
And they're not gonna hold me down no more, no they're not gonna change my mind.  
  
Cause I've got [faith](https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Faith) of the [heart](https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Heart).  
I'm going where my heart will take me.  
I've got faith to believe.

I can do anything.  
I've got strength of the [soul](https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Soul).

And no one's gonna bend or break me.  
I can reach any [star](https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Star).  
I've got faith.”

I want to express our collective gratitude to all for having faith in us.... Congratulations to my fellow graduates... and thank you!!