**Central Texas College**

 **Satellite Graduation Speech**

 **June Seay: Ret: Sergeant Major**

 **Liberty Chapel**

 **May 17, 2019**

**Good afternoon, welcome, welcome**. I want to thank everyone in attendance here today, those who are graduating after such a long journey, and their families and friends who have supported them all through the process. We came her to bestow degrees from Central Texas College, and we came here to look towards tomorrow. My name is June Seay, retired Sergeant Major Seay, and I know firsthand the work and time both you and your families have dedicated to get to this point in your life.

We are fortunate to have this venue for this celebration and ceremony. Liberty Chapel is a peaceful and inviting. It is a house of worship, with strength and dignity. I could not think of a more befitting location for our graduates and their guests.

This is a milestone day in all your lives, a very happy time, and a day that will be among a handful that you will surely remember. What you have accomplished is significantly different than the normal sequence required for a two- or four-year degree. What you have completed is multi-tasking at its highest definition. You have served your country, you have served your branch of the military: Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. *By the way it* *took me forever to decide the order I just put them in***,** I guess you knownow in which branch I served! **(laughter).**

And while protecting your country, you also worked at insuring the protection of your and your family’s future, by going to college, going to university. You were taught skills in the service, then you went above and beyond to simultaneously learn other subjects and professions, while attending Central Texas and associated reciprocal colleges and universities. Talk about spinning plates, being in two or three places at once, or putting

 2.

thirty hours into a twenty-four-hour day. That is what you had to do to get here, and that is what you did, mission accomplished.

Many years past a young woman began her military career. In addition to wanting to serve her country, she had a major goal way out on the horizon. That elusive gold ring she was reaching for, was her Associates Degree. She began to utilize the opportunities the military offered, just as all of you here have done. She enrolled in the University Of Maryland’s educational program very similar to the one you are completing today from Central Texas. She began her military career, and subsequently received five different permanent assignments, was deployed to war, and was even stationed in Costa Rica: **“ella aprendio` mucho de todos sus viejes” “*That woman******learned so much from all of her travels”.***She worked, studied, and cared for her family, and in turn they had her back behind through it all. Across multiple continents, and through many reciprocating colleges, fifteen years after she began, she was awarded her degree. The woman I am referring too, if you haven’t guessed already, is me. Many of you have experienced the same pathway, each with your own timeframe. You have persevered, you have shown resilience, you have crossed the finish line. Each of you graduates, every member of your family, every dear, supportive friend, should be so very proud of the degree earned here today from Central Texas College.

When you leave Liberty Chapel this afternoon, what awaits? Let’s ask a question, one that goes beyond this afternoon. Let’s ask: **“Are You** **Satisfied?”** There is only one answer, and that is “NO”. You have come a long way, but there are roads still to travel. These are the productive and happy roads ahead, that you and your family have worked to attain. It is now time to implement all this effort, to reward not only yourself, but also those who were on your six the entire time.

Now is one of the seminal periods in your life where a substantial part of your legacy will be established. Your legacy will be shaped by two factions,

 3.

your professional, and your personal life. Whether you remain military or civilian, seek a career you truly enjoy. There is a saying regarding work, that is as fresh today as the day it was when coined. *“Find something you truly love to do every day and get paid to do it”.* And go through your career or careers with integrity, honesty, and dependability. Right here and now, if you have not already, set you moral compass. Set it to destinations that will guide you to good choices and good decisions. Be honest, keep your word, allow your handshake to be your word, your bond. If you retain those ideals over the years, your working legacy will speak for itself.

Your personal legacy has a different design. A design you will craft by your everyday behavior and actions. Treat everyone with respect and dignity. Be patient and courteous to all until they prove otherwise. Above all else love and enjoy your family, as family is truly everything. Guide your children, teach them to be smart and kind. Show them patience by example, be a role model. Be a partner to your spouse and show him/her respect by making decisions together. And regardless, always protect your family from all harm. For when all is said and done, your human legacy in this world, is your family.

I am retired, but I still remember how to issue orders. I’ll finish today with your **orders**:

 **Go**, **Achieve**, **Learn**, be **Productive**, be **Competitive**, show **Compassion**, be **Happy** and **please** be **Fulfilled.**

Drive **carefully** this afternoon everyone, be **careful out there**, and **until we** **meet again**,…thank you and **Goodbye**.