WELCOME AND OCCASSION

On behalf of the class of 1965, I greet you this day, June 6, 2015, with abundant joy and gladness of heart. We are especially thankful for the presence of our special guest (Superintend, Public Schools), Director Board of Education, our guest speaker, James Madison basketball player, Angela Mickens, Alumni, community leaders, friends, and other supporters.

For it was on this day, exactly 50 years ago, that we walked across the graduation stage with diploma in hand, embracing the ideals of our educators, and the hopes and dreams of a rich and bright future. The class of 65 was uniquely fit together, always looking to do extraordinary things. As I reflect back I remember the class attending the World’s Fair in New York City instead of planning and attending a PROM.

And so it was no great surprise as we began talk of our 50th anniversary celebration, back in September, 2014, that one classmate suggested that we not have a traditional class reunion, but instead celebrate the dedicated women’s basketball team, the Eagleetted that often couched in the shadow of the three time state champions our beloved and best of the best men’s team The Eagles.

Around this same time we learned that our old alma mater had been added to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places-“ WOW -- Talk about timing”. The class decided why not work towards bringing our hard fought trophies and banners home to the Old landmark! It was great to learn that our colleagues at Lee High had taken good care of our trophies and banners. However, we believed that our old alma mater where events took place that made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history would provide the alumni and the community at large the best opportunity to teach us, our children, and our children’s children the great legacy that lies within these walls. We are indebted today, that our classmate and visionary Mooneye Jackson-Amis, accepted our call to serve as our frontrunner and spokesperson to bring our heritage home.

So we are here at this appointed time and this designated place to celebrate the contributions of the Eaglettes, to celebrate the class of 65, 50th reunion; to celebrate the return of our trophies; to rekindle old friendships and be open to opportunities for new alliances and to hear from our gifted and skilled guest speaker.

Turn to your neighbor and say Neighbor, this promises to be a great event and I am happy glad to be part of this historic occasion!