

Mayor's Monthly Message: May 2019

This May was very busy, but I wanted to highlight some of the proclamations that I am especially proud of, as our citizens continue to shine in all that they do and give. I love being able to recognize them appropriately. The first was issued for exceptional service to the Town of Florence to Mr. Kevin McGinnis. He is an important volunteer of the Town of Florence, making a difference in the lives of both Town employees and its citizens. He has served as Florence Police and Fire Department Chaplain since 2008; has trained lifeguards through the Red Cross for the City of Casa Grande, Coolidge, and the Town of Florence; and has given his time to teach children and families how to swim and be safe around water. Mr. McGinnis has served on the PTA Board as the Recording Secretary; and is the CEO of the Florence Fudge Shop and Love Works Pregnancy Resource Center. He has also established a food bank and weekly bread bank. He is always ready to serve anyone in need. The second was the 50th Anniversary of Municipal Clerk's Week. The Town Clerk's Office is comprised of Maria Hernandez, Deputy Town Clerk, whose responsibilities include business licenses and public records requests; and Ms. Patricia Buchanan, Administrative Assistant, whose responsibilities include calendaring appointments for the Town Manager and Town Clerk, as well as scheduling use of the building. Along with Mrs. Lisa Garcia, these ladies work diligently to ensure that everything is organized and running smooth. My annual favorite proclamation was declaring Florence's pride in those who have enlisted in the military and to urge all citizens to continue to support our military service personnel and the families of those who are serving our armed forces. Whereas, men and women join the military, in part because of the benefits the military offers, but more importantly, they join the military and put their lives on the line so the rest of us might live in a safer, freer, more just world. I am profoundly grateful for this sacrifice that they have chosen to offer each of us and because of their heroism; we are able to sleep soundly at night knowing that they are valiantly guarding our freedom.

In our events that we are looking forward to this month, I am most looking forward to our local high school graduation. As an educator and mayor, I am extremely proud of our youth for their accomplishments. Our council has pledged to continue providing \$5,000 towards their annual graduation lock-in event, which creates a safe atmosphere for them to celebrate. In addition, I'd like to thank Mark Lamb and PCSO for their donation as well towards the lock-in. As well as all of the local businesses, families, and FHS staff that help make this event a success. Again this year, I was invited to attend their yearly awards and scholarships presentation. I am continued to be inspired in collaborating with others in helping our youth with their future career goals. I would like to share the following words I wish to impart on our graduating class of 2019:

Dear Graduating Seniors,

Over the years, you have been met with academic challenges, developed your social skills, and have developed into your own person. As you embark upon the next venture in your life, I would like to congratulate you on your accomplishments thus far. As a graduating senior in Florence,

you have been challenged to set high goals for yourself, and be true in all that you do. As you graduate, remember what you have learned. Be a responsible citizen and a good representation of all of those who have invested their time to prepare you for this point in your life.

I believe you will continue to soar and grow. You will remember the lessons of your childhood and apply them as needed. You will contribute to your community, and you will fulfill your responsibilities to the best of your ability. You will stay true to who you are and you will continue to treat others with kindness. As a result, you will find success, no matter how it is measured. Over the years, I have had the following wisdom shared with me and find these lessons near and dear to me:

- Always treat people with respect and be nice to everyone. A true test of your character is your interest in demonstrating respect for people who can't or won't ever return the favor. Respect them anyway.*

- The longest distance between any two points is the shortcut. Wanting something now means you will probably pay later. Be willing to work hard, get dirty and have blisters. "Equity" is the earned cumulative value in something. Be willing to develop some "sweat equity" in anything you want.*

- Maintain your personal integrity - it defines who you are. True integrity is a determination to always do the right thing, even when it's hard and when no one is looking. It is also about not worrying about who gets the credit.*

- Success is not measured by your job, your education, how much money you have or what kind of car you drive. Success is determined by who you are, how you treat others and how you lead your life.*

I am proud of you and look forward to your accomplishments. Go forth with joy in your heart and the lessons you have learned from your family and friends. In life no matter how far your adventures take you, always remember Florence is your home. It is my hope that you will return to Florence and help us build a better future for our community!

To find upcoming events and activities, please visit our Town website: www.florenceaz.gov. As always, stay safe and enjoy. ☺

Sincerely,

Tara Walter
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