

Mayor's Monthly Message: May 2020

This month, I am dedicating the Mayor's Monthly Message to all of the Graduating Seniors: Our Class of 2020.

Dear Graduating Senior,

Over the years, you have been met with academic challenges, developed your social skills, and have developed into your own person. You were born in shadow of 9/11 attacks and are graduating during a pandemic. 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!

Sincerely,

Tara Walter
Mayor of Florence, AZ