

Phillip many wonderful years of happiness and good health in his retirement.●

TIM RUSSERT'S ADDRESS TO
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, Tim Russert, who served for many years as a member of the Senate staff, and who now serves the Nation as moderator of "Meet The Press" gave the Class Day Address this past Wednesday at the Harvard Law School. It is wonderfully reflective and just as emphatically exhorting. I ask that it be printed in today's RECORD.

The address follows:

ADDRESS BY TIM RUSSERT, HARVARD LAW
SCHOOL CLASS DAY, JUNE 7, 2000

Well today I finally got into Harvard. And I thank you. But most respectfully my perspective is different today than when I applied to law school 27 years ago.

You have chosen for your class day speaker the son of a man who never finished high school . . . who worked two jobs—as a truck driver and sanitation man—for 37 years and never complained.

And so may I dare suggest to you I now believe that my dad taught me more by the quiet eloquence of his hard work and his basic decency than I learned from 16 years of formal education.

With that caveat, let me begin.

Former White House Chief of Staff John Sununu. Legend has it, in 1991 he encountered some difficult times. He approached the First Lady Barbara Bush and said "Barbara . . . I need your advice . . . your wisdom . . . your counsel . . . why is it that people here seem to take such an instant dislike to me?" She replied, "because it saves time John."

Justice Frankfurter said it this way. "Wisdom too often never comes and so one ought not to reject it merely because it comes late." In that humble spirit. Congratulations!

But before you can begin to move on to the next phase of your lives—you must undergo the last grueling hurdle in your career here at Harvard Law school.

The Class Day Address.

Let me be honest with you about my experiences with class day or commencement addresses. I've been through several of my own and I've sat through dozens of others. And I can't recall a single word or phrase from any of those informed, inspirational and seemingly interminable addresses. Despite that, others wiser and more learned than I, have decided there continues to be virtue in this tradition so I will speak to you, but I will try not to delay you too long.

In 1985, I was granted an extraordinary opportunity—a private audience with the Holy Father.

I'll never forget it. The door opened—and there was the Pope—dressed in white. He walked solemnly into the room, at that time it seemed as large as this field. I was there to convince His Holiness it was in his interest to appear on the Today show. But my thoughts soon turned away from Bryant Gumbel's career and NBC's ratings toward the idea of salvation. As I stood there with the Vicar of Christ, I simply blurted, "Bless me Father!" He put his arm around my shoulder and whispered—you are the one called Timothy—I said yes, "the man from

NBC"—"yes, yes, that's me." "They tell me you are a very important man." Somewhat taken aback, I said, "Your Holiness, with all due respect, there are only two of us in this room, and I am certainly a distant second." He looked at me and said "right." That was not the last time I pleaded *nolo contendere*.

In preparing for this afternoon, I had thought about presenting a scholarly essay on the media coverage of the private lives of Presidents and their interns, but I demurred because as you've been taught *res ipse loquitur*.

Television has a very hard time conveying complicated issues. It is a medium that seems to seek out simplicity over nuance.

It is said that David Brinkley recently reminisced that the way television news would cover Moses in the year 2000 would be as follows: "Moses came down from the mountaintop today with the 10 commandments . . . here is Sam Donaldson with the three most important."

So let me skip the temptation of crafting an article for your law review or honing a compelling oral argument.

Let me instead take a few minutes to have a conversation with you.

You have chosen a profession and a university that is unique and you made the choice deliberately.

The education you've received at Harvard Law School isn't meant to be the same as you could have received at medical, engineering or business school.

You've been given an education that says it's not enough to have skill. Not even enough to have read all the books, mastered all the briefs or shepardized all the cases.

The oath you will take, the ethics you must abide by, demand more than that.

Embarking on a legal career will bring some uncertainty, insecurity, apprehension. But fear not. I've overcome worse. You should try being a Buffalo Bills fan in Washington! I actually took Meet the Press to the Super Bowl one year. At the end of the program, I looked into the camera and said, "It's now in God's hands. And God is good. And God is just. Please God, please make three a charm. One time. Go Bills!"

My colleague Tom Brokaw turned to me and said, "you Irish Catholics from South Buffalo are shameless."

Well, as I moped back from the stadium after the Dallas Cowboys snuck by 38-10. The first person I saw was Brokaw—he came up put his arm around me and said, "Well, pal, I guess God is a Southern Baptist." I've had the opportunity to work for Senators and Governors, meet Popes and interview Presidents—I do know one thing to be true. The values you have been taught, the struggles you have survived and the diploma you are about to receive tomorrow, have prepared you to compete with anybody, anywhere in the world.

But let us not forget—and Harvard Law graduates, if you hear anything, hear this—it is people, not degrees, who defend, protect and help those in need.

You will be the foot soldiers—the frontline of our legal system dealing day in and day out with the problems and needs of the ordinary folks, the common citizens—the ones the Court calls plaintiffs and defendants.

Even if you choose to be a super lawyer/lobbyist in Washington . . . a rainmaker on Wall Street . . . the clerk of a prestigious court you must do your part that true justice prevails for everyone.

Recall the admonition of Justice Learned Hand "If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment:

Thou shalt not ration justice. Your contributions as a lawyer can be significant. You can help save lives, protect the innocent, convict the guilty, provide prosperity, guarantee justice and train young minds.

In words of an American Olympics coach, "You were born to be players. You were meant to be here. At this time. At this moment. Seize it."

And so, too, with the Harvard Law graduates of 2000. You were born to be players in this extraordinary game called life, in this extraordinary vocation called the law.

So go climb that ladder of success and work and live in comfort. And enjoy yourself.

You earned it. For that is the American dream. But please do this work and your honorable profession one small favor. Remember the people struggling along side you and below you. The people who haven't had the same opportunity, the same blessings, the same education.

Recognize, comprehend, understand the society into which you are now venturing . . .

13 children a day are shot dead in the United States of America. We—you—have an obligation to at least ask why?

Be it criminal law, family law, corporate law, poverty law, politics, litigation, academic—you cannot—you must not—ignore these problems. They threaten the very foundation of our system of jurisprudence—the very fabric of our society.

These are the real numbers—real problems—involving real people.

Liberals may call it doing good; conservatives may call it enlightened self-interest.

Whatever your ideology, reach down and see if there isn't someone you can't pull up a rung or two—someone old, someone sick, someone lonely, someone uneducated, someone defenseless. Give them a hand. Give them a chance. Give them a start—give them protection. Give them their dignity. Indeed there is a simple truth. "No exercise is better for the human heart that reaching down to lift up another."

That's what I believe it means to be a Harvard Law School graduate—a lawyer in the year 2000. For the good of all of us, and most important to me—my 14-year-old son, Luke—please build a future we all can be proud of.

And one last thing, laugh at yourself . . . keep your sense of humor.

One of your alumni, John Kennedy class of 1940, used to send these words to his close friends:

"There are three things which are real.

God . . . human folly and laughter. The first two are beyond our comprehension so we must do what we can with the third." A friend once told me. The United States is the only country he knows that puts the pursuit of happiness right after life and liberty among our God given rights.

Laughter and liberty—they go well together.

Have an interesting and rewarding career and a wonderful and fulfilling life.

Thank you for inviting me to share your class day. I now have the best of both worlds: a Jesuit education and a Harvard baseball cap!

Take care.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT
GOMEZ OF ANCHORAGE

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the National Hockey League's Rookie of the Year,