

see, America changes, America becomes a better place one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And what Tammy knows is that one person can't do everything, but one person can make an enormous difference in the lives of somebody who needs help.

And that's my call today. To those of you who live—are going to college—you got a great education here, you're going to go to college, I just want you to remember that if you're interested in fighting evil, if you're interested in making this Nation as strong as it possibly can be, help some-

body in need. Take time out of your day, take time out of your life to be a part of the vast army of compassion which exists all across this great land.

I want you to know you live in the greatest country—the greatest country—on the face of the Earth, and I am proud to be your President. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin.

Remarks at Clarke Street Elementary School in Milwaukee May 8, 2002

The President. I'd like to thank my friend Rod Paige, who is the Secretary of Education. Scott McCallum, your Governor—welcome to your Governor. I want to thank the teachers who are here. Thank you all for teaching.

I'm here because this is a great school that believes every child can learn. It starts with a mindset that says every child can learn. That means there's high expectations, and there's a willingness to make sure every child is learning. I appreciate the curriculum you're using. We went—a reading program that we're quite familiar with in Texas—Rod and I are from Texas—and it's a program that works. You're using a curriculum that has been proven to work, and that's important. I want to thank the parents who are here. You've got a responsibility to make sure your children come to school polite, prepared, ready to learn. Make sure you encourage them to read more than they watch TV. I know that's a monumental task, but it's important. It's important to make sure every child learns to read. And parents have got a lot of responsibility to make sure their children learn to read.

I want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs that are involved here as well. I appreciate that. We're going to change America one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. And the Boys and Girls Clubs are an integral part of providing help, particularly in after-school programs. And I want to thank you for being here.

Okay, I've got some questions for you. Ready? How many of you are going to college?

[*The students raised their hands.*]

The President. That's good news. See, that means you've set a goal. In order to meet that goal, you've got to really be good readers, and you've got to study and listen to your teachers.

How many of you read more than you watch TV? [*Laughter*] With all due respect to the cameras, I hope you read more than you watch TV. You learn a lot more. It will help you get ready. See, if you raised your hand and said you wanted to go to college, in order to make sure you help achieve that goal, practice your reading. A good way to do it is to turn your TV sets off and practice.

And finally, in order to go to college, to meet the goal you've set, make sure you make right choices. Tell them, "no," when somebody tries to say drugs are cool or alcohol is good. Make the right choices. You'll be in college, and that's what we want.

I'm so glad that we could come by to see you all. God bless you all, and thanks for letting me come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at Logan High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin May 8, 2002

The President. Thank you. Okay, here we go. Thank you all very much. It's—

Audience member. We all love you!

The President. Your mother may be watching; behave yourselves. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be here. I want to thank the citizens of La Crosse, Wisconsin, for such a warm welcome. I'm—great to be here in Logan High School. It's a great place.

So I was being briefed about Logan High School. I'll tell you what impressed me the most. I was impressed by the fact you've got a great baseball team. I was impressed you've got a great girls basketball team. But I was most impressed when I saw that the school raised a banner for the academic superstars. I'm at this school, of course, to talk education, but I'm also here to herald excellence. And we have found excellence at Logan High School, and thanks for giving me a chance to come by.

I appreciate the Secretary of Education traveling with me today. You know, we've got a lot of people who like to theorize in Washington, DC—kind of philosopher types. I'm kind of a roll-up-your-sleeve-and-get-it-done type guy. And that's what I want the people—and I picked that kind of man as our Secretary of Education as well. This is a fellow who's been on the frontlines of education. I had the honor of meeting your superintendent here in La Crosse. They were able to talk super-

intendent talk. [*Laughter*] They know how to get things done. And so I've got a really good man who's joined me in my administration to help make sure that no child in America—and we mean no child—is left behind when it comes to education.

I want to thank Logan High grad, class of '81, Congressman Ron Kind for joining us today. Thank you, Ron. I really appreciate you coming today. I'm honored you're here. I also want to thank your Governor, Scott McCallum, for traveling with me today as well. I want to thank Michael McArdle, who is the president of the La Crosse School Board, for being here. I want to thank all the school board members. I appreciate Thomas Downs, who's your superintendent. Interestingly enough, he showed me a picture of he and my dad when he was—I think, a teacher, he said, in Iowa. I really want to thank Scott and the staff and the teachers for making this visit possible. You know, one of the things I've learned, as Governor and now President, is that when you find a good school, you also find a good principal.

There's going to be some folks here graduating, I understand, pretty soon.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Don't take it for granted. [*Laughter*] But you'll be the first high school class that has graduated with America under attack. We got under attack in September, and you're graduating in a time