

MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD: MAKE CHOICES NOT EXCUSES

Keynote Speaker

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I WOULD LIKE TO THANK JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSON, MR. BROWN, MR. MICKENS AND DR. HANCOCK, FOR INVITING ME HERE TO SPEAK TO THIS FINE GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE.

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW IMPORTANT YOUR FREEDOM IS TO ME.

I WANT TO START WITH AN EXERCISE THAT IS SURE TO WAKE YOU ALL UP.

I HAVE TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER AND THIS IS WHAT WE DO AT HOME.....ARE YOU READY....

HARD WORK... DEDICATION! YOU TRY IT... HARD WORK... DEDICATION!

THIS IS YOUR GRADUATION... THIS IS A NEW BEGINNING... THIS IS YOUR CHANCE... THIS IS IT!!!!

HOW MANY OF YOU DO NOT HAVE FATHERS AT HOME? I DID NOT EITHER...SO WHAT I AM GOING TO TALK ABOUT TODAY IS MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD, CHOICES /EXCUSES.

MANHOOD IS DEFINED AS THE CONDITION OF BEING AN ADULT MALE AS OPPOSED TO BEING A CHILD OR A BOY.

THIS A VERY GENERIC DEFINITION...SO LET'S BREAK IT DOWN.

WHAT IS A HUMAN?...WE CAN BE DEFINED AS MALE OR FEMALE...SOME DEFINE MAN AS PART OF A TEAM...A PIECE THAT CAN BE MOVED ON A BOARD OR ON A VIDEO GAME..

IT IS A DESIGNATION OF A PROMISE...

I TAKE PRIDE IN BEING CALLED A HOWARD MAN AND MY WIFE A HOWARD WOMAN...BUT THE DEFINITION I LIKE BEST IS...

A MAN IS THE COMPOUND IDEA OF THE INFINITE SPIRIT: THE SPIRITUAL IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD: THE FULL REPRESENTATION OF THE MIND.

AS A MAN THINKETH SO IS HE...

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF HOOD?...HOOD CAN BE DEFINED AS A COVERING FOR AN EMPTY SPACE...IT CAN BE AN ORNAMENTAL GARMENT WORN BY ACADEMICS AT GRADUATIONS(INDICATING STATURE)...IT CAN BE DEFINED AS A PROTECTIVE COVERING OF THE HEAD OR NECK...THE GERMAN ETIOLOGY OF THE WORD **HUOTA MEANS GUARD**

TURN TO YOUR NEIGHBOR AND SAY "PROTECT YOUR NECK"...TURN TO ANOTHER NEIGHBOR AND SAY "PROTECT MINE."

A MAN EXHIBITING MANHOOD STANDS GUARD!...WHAT ARE THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE GUARD?

MORAL STRENGTH, DISCIPLINED, DEDICATED, DETERMINED, ALERT, DELIGENT, PREPARED, BUT MOST IMPORTANT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT YOU ARE CHARGED TO GUARD!

WHAT HAPPENS IF A GUARD IS CAUGHT SLEEPING?...EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING THAT HE LOVES AND IS THERE TO PROTECT IS AT RISK,

SO WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO? THE BLESSING IS THAT WE HAVE A FAMILY, A COMMUNITY AROUND US THAT WANT TO SEE US WALK INTO OUR MANHOOD.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE FOR US TO GRADUATE AND BECOME GREAT.

WE HAVE TO BEGIN BY LOOKING AROUND US AND INTO THE FUTURE AND IDENTIFY THE THOUGHTS, DREAMS, AND PEOPLE THAT WE WANT TO PROTECT...

I WANTED TO BECOME A DOCTOR SINCE I WAS 8 YEARS OLD, GROWING UP WITHOUT A FATHER...IT WAS IMPORTATNT FOR ME TO PROTECT MY MOTHER AND SISTERS...PROTECTION OCCURS AS A FUNCTION OF PREPARATION AND REACTION...

DISCUSS LIFE FROM CHILDHOOD TO NOW

THE LAST THING I WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT IS RESPONSIBILITY AND MAKING CHOICES VS. EXCUSES

CHOICE MEANS CARE IN SELECTION...LIKE CHOICE MEAT, OR THE BEST OF A PART...IN FAITH THOSE CHOOSE WHAT THEY LOVE...I CHOOSE MY FAMILY, I CHOOSE GOD, I CHOOSE MY COMMUNITY, I CHOOSE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

SAY I CHOOSE TO BE SUCCESSFUL!

EXCUSE IS DEFINED AS AN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE BLAME...THIS IS AVERTING RESPONSIBILITY

SAY I WILL NOT MAKE EXCUSES!

YOU YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BE ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO BE...

THE WORLD IS YOURS...

THOSE AROUND YOU THAT WANT YOU TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A FATHER, A MOTHER, MONEY, LIVE IN EAST ORANGE, LIVE IN NEWARK, ARE LIARS!

YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A CHOICE TO BE GREAT! TO BE EXCELLENT! TO MAXIMIZE!

YOU ARE THE BEST AND I LOVE YOU!

EVERY GRADUATE GET UP AND STAND UP...BOW YOUR HEADS!

I WILL GIVE THE MEN A STATEMENT AND I WANT YOU TO RESPOND AFTER ME

I AM RIGHT CHOICES.....YES

I AM NOT EXCUSES

I AM RESPONSIBLE

I AM DEDICATED TO MY COMMUNITY

I AM A GUARD FOR MY DREAMS

I AM AN EXAMPLE

I AM DISCIPLINED

I AM DETERMINED

I AM FREE

I AM FREE

I AM FREE

THANK YOU!!!