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Phi Beta Kappa Initiation Address
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MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF PHI BETA KAPPA:

YOU HAVE TODAY BECOME MEMBERS OF PHI BETA KAPPA -- THE OLDEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS HONORARY SOCIETY. ITS KEY SYMBOLIZES ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY. IT ALSO REPRESENTS AN ENDURING COMMITMENT TO A LIBERAL EDUCATION. SINCE 1776 WHEN PHI BETA KAPPA WAS ESTABLISHED, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM THE LIBERAL EDUCATION THAT CHARACTERIZED EARLY HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA AND EUROPE. INCREASINGLY UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION HAS BECOME SPECIALIZED AND MORE PROFESSIONAL. PHI BETA KAPPA REMAINS TODAY WHAT ITS FOUNDERS INTENDED 225 YEARS AGO: A MEANS OF RECOGNIZING HIGH ATTAINMENT IN LIBERAL EDUCATION.

I CONGRATULATE YOU, BUT I HOPE THAT YOU ARE ALSO HUMBLLED BY YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT. IF YOUR EDUCATION AT BOWLING GREEN HAS ACCOMPLISHED ITS PURPOSES, IT OUGHT TO LEAVE YOU WITH A SENSE OF DISSATISFACTION AND INCOMPLETENESS. YOUR LEARNING HERE OUGHT TO HAVE MADE YOU AWARE OF HOW MUCH MORE THERE IS TO LEARN. IT OUGHT TO HAVE MADE YOU DETERMINED TO LEARN STILL MORE, TO LEARN FOR THE SAKE OF LEARNING AND NOT JUST TO FULFILL COURSE REQUIREMENTS. EVERY INTELLECTUAL INSIGHT OPENED BY A BOOK, A LECTURE, A CLASS DISCUSSION OUGHT TO HAVE CHALLENGED YOU TO THINK MORE DEEPLY AND TO WANT TO LEARN MORE. SO WHILE YOUR PHI BETA KAPPA SIGNIFIES INTELLECTUAL ATTAINMENT AND WHILE YOUR BACHELOR'S DEGREE WILL SIGNIFY THAT YOU HAVE FULFILLED THOSE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE INTENDED TO BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER THIS AS JUST THE BEGINNING OF A LIFETIME PURSUIT OF LIBERAL EDUCATION.

AS YOU GO ON TO JOBS OR MORE SCHOOLING, YOU WILL INEVITABLY BECOME MORE AND MORE SPECIALIZED. YET THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUING YOUR LIBERAL EDUCATION WILL ALWAYS BE THERE AND, IF YOU DO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM, YOU CAN CONTINUE TO ENRICH YOUR LIVES IN WAYS THAT WILL BROADEN YOUR PERSPECTIVES, ENHANCE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIETY AND CULTURE, AND DEEPEN YOUR APPRECIATION OF THE WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE. IT WILL ALSO MAKE YOU A MORE EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY PROFESSION.

THE EASIEST MEANS OF BUILDING THAT LIBERAL EDUCATION IS TO KEEP READING, AND, MORE PARTICULARLY, TO KEEP READING WORKS THAT ARE INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGING. THESE CAN BE NOVELS, SHORT STORIES, POETRY, BIOGRAPHIES, HISTORIES, PHILOSOPHY, AND SO ON, BUT THEY NEED TO BE WORKS OF SUBSTANCE. IN OTHER WORDS, I AM NOT RECOMMENDING JAMES BOND ADVENTURES OR DANIELLE STEEL ROMANTIC NOVELS. THOSE WORKS CAN BE FINE FOR DIVERSION, BUT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO CHALLENGE YOU INTELLECTUALLY. LET ME CITE ONE EXAMPLE. WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE, I USED TO LISTEN TO ENGLISH MAJORS TALKING EXCITEDLY ABOUT TWO SOUTHERN WOMAN WRITERS: CARSON MCCULLERS AND FLANNERY O'CONNOR. I HAD NEVER HEARD OF THEM IN ANY OF MY ENGLISH COURSES, BUT I FILED THE NAMES AWAY MENTALLY AND, A FEW YEARS LATER, I BEGAN TO READ MCCULLERS AND O'CONNOR'S WORKS AND EACH, IN DISTINCTIVE WAYS, BROUGHT NEW INSIGHTS AND OBSERVATIONS THAT I STILL VALUE. IT IS EASY TO LEARN ABOUT EXCITING BOOKS--LISTENING TO SUGGESTIONS OF FRIENDS, READING BOOK REVIEWS, BROWSING THROUGH LIBRARIES

AND BOOKSTORES. THE SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW WILL ALWAYS INCLUDE REVIEWS OF THREE OR FOUR BOOKS THAT I FIND OF INTEREST. THERE IS NO REASON NOT TO BE READING SOMETHING OF SUBSTANCE ALL THE TIME. PUT SIMPLY: READING IS THE EASIEST, LEAST EXPENSIVE, AND MOST THE MOST REWARDING INVESTMENT IN INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT AVENUE TO LIBERAL EDUCATION IS THROUGH TRAVEL, ESPECIALLY TRAVEL THAT FORCES YOU TO CONFRONT ANOTHER CULTURE ON ITS OWN TERMS. "CULTURE SHOCK"--THAT PROFOUNDLY SHATTERING EXPERIENCE OF ENTERING A DIFFERENT WORLD--TEACHES GREAT LESSONS. ONE CAN READ ABOUT POVERTY IN THE THIRD WORLD, ABOUT EXOTIC RELIGIOUS PRACTICES, ABOUT OVERCROWDED CITIES, AND SO FORTH, BUT IT IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER TO HAVE TO LIVE IN THE MIDST OF WHAT IS ALIEN AND UNFAMILIAR. BUT BY TAKING THAT STEP INTO THE UNFAMILIAR, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY BE MADE TO FEEL A PART OF THAT WORLD. ALONG THE WAY, THERE WILL BE AWKWARD AND PAINFUL MOMENTS, BUT IN THE END, YOU WILL LEARN TO APPRECIATE ANOTHER CULTURE IN WAYS THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE. YOU WILL BE LITERALLY "LIBERATED" FROM THE CONSTRAINTS OF YOUR OWN CULTURAL BACKGROUND. THIS YEAR MARKS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE PEACE CORPS, AN ENTERPRISE THAT HAS TAKEN THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS INTO THE DEVELOPING WORLD. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WILL INVARIABLY REPORT THAT WHILE THEY WENT ABROAD TO HELP OTHERS, IT WAS THEY WHO LEARNED THE MOST FROM THE EXPERIENCE. RECENTLY, A WOMAN, NOW IN HER 60S, RECALLED JOINING THE PEACE CORPS AND BEING SENT TO INDIA:

"I WAS A NURSE, A COLLEGE GRADUATE WHO THOUGHT SHE REALLY KNEW JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING. I WAS SENT TO INDIA TO HELP VILLAGE WOMEN LEARN MORE ABOUT SANITATION AND TO WORK WITH AN ELDERLY INDIAN DOCTOR. NOTHING PREPARED ME FOR ENTERING THE WORLD OF AN INDIAN VILLAGE, LET ALONE TO LIVE THERE. NEITHER WAS I PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE WOMEN WHOM I WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP. THEY WERE ILLITERATE, BUT SAVVY. THEY NATURALLY DOUBTED WHETHER A YOUNG AMERICAN COULD BE OF ANY HELP TO THEM IN THEIR WORLD OF RAISING CHILDREN AND DOING BACK-BREAKING WORK IN THE RICE PADDIES. THEY ASKED ME QUESTIONS THAT I COULD NOT ANSWER. MY FIRST MEETING WITH THEM WAS SHATTERING. I LEFT EMOTIONALLY DRAINED AND WONDERING WHY I HAD BEEN SENT THERE. THE FIRST WEEKS WERE DIFFICULT, BUT EVENTUALLY THE WOMEN AND I CAME TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER AND THROUGH THEM I CAME TO APPRECIATE LIFE IN AN INDIAN VILLAGE. WE LEARNED TO WORK TOGETHER, AND TO TRUST AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER. I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM THEM. THOSE TWO YEARS IN INDIA WERE THE RICHEST EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE."

BESIDES READING AND TRAVELING, THERE IS A THIRD PATH THAT I WOULD ALSO SUGGEST: TO TAKE CHALLENGES THAT SEEM TO BE BEYOND YOUR GRASP. IN OTHER WORDS, TAKE SOME RISKS, FOR BY DOING SO, YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEST WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY LEARNED AND, IN THE PROCESS, TO LEARN A GREAT DEAL MORE ABOUT YOURSELF. TAKING RISKS, OF COURSE, MAY LEAD TO FAILURE, BUT YOU ALSO LEARN FROM DISAPPOINTMENTS. IF YOU NEVER HAVE ANY DISAPPOINTMENTS IN YOUR CAREER, YOU MOST LIKELY NEVER TOOK ANY RISKS. I WAS REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING RISKS THROUGH MY ASSOCIATION WITH A STUDENT WHO EIGHT YEARS AGO SAT WHERE YOU ARE TODAY, AS A PHI BETA KAPPA INITIATE. SHE HAD BEEN STUDENT IN TWO OF MY COURSES. SHE WAS VERY INTELLIGENT, HARD-WORKING AND ASPIRED TO BE AN ATTORNEY. SHE HAD, HOWEVER, NOT DONE ESPECIALLY WELL ON THE LAW SCHOOL APTITUDE TEST AND HAD RESIGNED HERSELF TO GOING TO A SECOND-TIER LAW SCHOOL. ONE OF HER OTHER PROFESSORS AND I ENCOURAGED HER TO APPLY TO AT LEAST ONE TOP LAW SCHOOL, FOR WE WERE BOTH CONVINCED THAT SHE HAD THE ABILITY TO SUCCEED

ANYWHERE. LARGELY TO APPEASE US, SHE APPLIED TO MICHIGAN. TO HER AMAZEMENT, SHE WAS ACCEPTED. WITH TREPIDATION AND A GOOD DEAL OF COURAGE, SHE DECIDED TO ENROLL THERE. SHE DID VERY WELL, INDEED MAKING THE LAW REVIEW. TOWARD THE END OF HER LAW SCHOOL CAREER, SHE WROTE AN E-MAIL TO ME AND THE OTHER PROFESSOR THAT SAID THREE THINGS. FIRST, WHEN SHE WENT TO MICHIGAN, SHE ENCOUNTERED AN INTENSELY COMPETITIVE INTELLECTUAL ATMOSPHERE, BUT SHE DECIDED NOT TO BE INITIMIDATED, BUT TO SEE IT AS A CHALLENGE. SECOND, SHE CAME TO APPRECIATE WHAT BOWLING GREEN HAD DONE FOR HER - THAT SHE HAD LEARNED TO WRITE AND TO THINK CRITICALLY. SHE EVEN THANKED US FOR ALL THE RED MARKS ON HER PAPERS THAT HAD HELPED TO IMPROVE HER WRITING SKILLS. THIRD, WHILE SHE MIGHT HAVE LEARNED AS MUCH LAW AT ONE OF THOSE OTHER SCHOOLS AS SHE DID AT MICHIGAN, SUCCEEDING AT MICHIGAN HAD TAUGHT HER INTANGIBLES ABOUT HERSELF AND ABOUT THE EXHILARATION OF BEING PART OF AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY WHERE EXCELLENCE WAS EXPECTED. WHAT SHE WAS SAYING WAS THAT THE COURAGE TO GO TO THE SCHOOL WHERE SUCCESS WAS NOT ASSURED HAD BROADENED HER WORLD.

LET ME ILLUSTRATE FURTHER THIS MESSAGE OF LIBERAL EDUCATION WITH BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE LIVES OF TWO PROMINENT AMERICANS OF THE LAST CENTURY: ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND HARRY TRUMAN. ON THE SURFACE, THE UPPER CLASS ROOSEVELT AND THE HOMESPUN TRUMAN WOULD SEEM TO HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON, BUT THEY SHARED ONE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC: THEIR LIVES EMBODIED THE LIFELONG PURSUIT OF LEARNING.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT WAS A PART OF THE AMERICAN ARISTOCRACY. THE NIECE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT, SHE GREW UP IN THE INSULAR WORLD OF THE EASTERN ARISTOCRACY OF THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES. SHE MARRIED HER DISTANT COUSIN, FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, AND, UPON HIS ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY, SHE BECAME THE FIRST FIRST-LADY TO CARVE OUT A DISTINCTIVE POLITICAL IDENTITY. SHE SPOKE AND WROTE WIDELY, INCLUDING A POPULAR SYNDICATED NEWSPAPER COLUMN ENTITLED "MY DAY." HER ACTIVISM CONTINUED BEYOND HER HUSBAND'S DEATH IN 1945, AND SHE REMAINED ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY RESPECTED PEOPLE IN THE WORLD UNTIL HER OWN DEATH IN 1962. NOW WE MIGHT THINK THAT ELEANOR ROOSEVELT MOVED EFFORTLESSLY FROM THE LIFE OF PRIVILEGE TO THAT OF A PUBLIC FIGURE. IN TRUTH, ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S ENTIRE CAREER WAS ONE OF OVERCOMING PROFOUND PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPRESSION AND CONQUERING DOUBTS ABOUT HER OWN ABILITIES. HER FAMILY WAS WHAT WE WOULD TODAY CALL DYSFUNCTIONAL: HER FATHER, WHOM SHE ADORED, WAS AN ALCOHOLIC; HER MOTHER WAS VERY DISTANT; BOTH PARENTS DIED BEFORE ELEANOR REACHED ADOLESCENCE WHEREUPON SHE WAS SENT TO LIVE IN THE AUSTERE HOUSEHOLD OF HER GRANDMOTHER. AS ONE OF HER BIOGRAPHERS WRITES, "ELEANOR WILLED HERSELF TO BECOME THE ACCOMPLISHED DAUGHTER HER FATHER HAD DECREED HER TO BE, THE FEARLESS WOMAN THAT WOULD MAKE HIM PROUD. EVERY INCH OF THE JOURNEY WAS FILLED WITH PERIL AND ANXIETY, BUT SHE NEVER STOPPED MOVING FORWARD." SHE BEGAN BY READING, WHICH AS A YOUNG GIRL SHE HAD TO DO SECRETLY. HER STERN GRANDMOTHER DECREED THAT GIRLS OF SOCIAL STANDING SHOULD READ ONLY AT CERTAIN TIMES AND PLACES. ELEANOR TOOK TO HIDING BOOKS UNDER HER MATTRESS SO SHE COULD READ THEM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. THEN ELEANOR WAS SENT TO BOARDING SCHOOL IN LONDON AND THAT WAS, IN HER OWN WORDS, "THE HAPPIEST THREE YEARS OF MY LIFE." SHE THRIVED ON A CLASSIC LIBERAL EDUCATION IN LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, HISTORY, RELIGION, AND PHILOSOPHY, AND SHE ALSO EXCELLED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. WHEN SHE RETURNED TO AMERICA, SHE DECIDED TO VISIT WHAT TO A YOUNG ARISTOCRAT WAS A FOREIGN COUNTRY: THE SLUMS OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF NEW YORK CITY. SHE DECIDED TO

WORK THERE IN A SETTLEMENT HOUSE. AFTER SHE BEGAN DATING FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, SHE TOOK HIM TO THE SETTLEMENT HOUSE AND HE COULD NOT BELIEVE WHAT HE SAW; HE SAID: "I NEVER DREAMED ANYONE LIVED LIKE THAT." WORKING IN THE SLUMS WAS THE FIRST STEP OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S LONG CAREER OF DOING THE UNEXPECTED. SHE COULD HAVE LIVED A LIFE OF LEISURE, BUT CHOSE INSTEAD TO FOLLOW HER CONVICTIONS. EVERY STEP WAS A BIG ONE -- TO BECOME AN ACTIVE POLITICAL FIGURE, TO SPEAK BEFORE LARGE GROUPS, TO SPEAK OUT ON BEHALF OF THE RIGHTS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND OTHER MINORITIES AT A TIME WHEN FEW AMERICANS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT INEQUALITIES IN AMERICAN LIFE. EVERY RISK THAT SHE TOOK WAS A LEARNING EXPERIENCE. SHE LEARNED HOW TO DEAL WITH CRITICISM, SOME OF WHICH WAS VICIOUS. SHE LEARNED HOW TO ORGANIZE, WHEN TO COMPROMISE, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PREPARED. THROUGHOUT HER ADULT LIFE, SHE KEPT DOING HER HOME WORK, READ REPORTS, STUDIED THE WORKS OF AUTHORITIES, AND THUS ALWAYS SPOKE INTELLIGENTLY AND WITH AUTHORITY. AND SHE NEVER STOPPED THE HABIT OF READING THAT HAD BEGUN AS A CHILD. SHE KEPT GROWING INTELLECTUALLY. ADMIRERS AND CRITICS COULD AGREE ON ONE THING: SHE WAS A WOMAN OF INTELLECT AND COURAGE. HER WHOLE LIFE COULD BE SUMMARIZED IN HER OWN WORDS: "THE THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT YOU MUST DO WHAT YOU THINK YOU CANNOT DO."

HARRY TRUMAN MAY SEEM LIKE AN INAPPROPRIATE EXAMPLE OF THE VALUE OF LIBERAL LEARNING. HE IS REMEMBERED AS A PARTISAN POLITICIAN, "GIVE 'EM HELL HARRY" AS HE WAS KNOWN. HE OFTEN ACTED IMPULSIVELY, AS WHEN HE THREATENED TO BEAT UP THE MUSIC CRITIC OF THE WASHINGTON POST WHO HAD QUESTIONED THE SINGING ABILITY OF TRUMAN'S DAUGHTER. TRUMAN IS ALSO THE ONLY PRESIDENT OF THE LAST EIGHTY YEARS WHO WAS NOT A COLLEGE GRADUATE. HIS FORMAL EDUCATION ENDED WITH HIS GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI IN 1901. BY THEN, HOWEVER, TRUMAN HAD ACQUIRED A LOVE OF READING THAT WAS TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. HE READ WIDELY, ESPECIALLY WORKS OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY. HE WAS "BETTER READ" THAN MOST COLLEGE GRADUATES, CERTAINLY BETTER THAN THE CURRENT OCCUPANT OF THE WHITE HOUSE WHO DURING THE 2000 CAMPAIGN BOASTED ABOUT HOW LITTLE HE HAD READ DURING HIS UNDERGRADUATE DAYS AT YALE. TRUMAN ALSO SOUGHT CHALLENGES. WHEN THE UNITED STATES ENTERED WORLD WAR I, TRUMAN WAS THIRTY-THREE YEARS OLD; HIS AGE AND POOR EYESIGHT MADE HIM AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE FOR MILITARY SERVICE. HE CERTAINLY DID NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING DRAFTED. YET HE VOLUNTEERED OUT OF A SENSE OF PATRIOTIC DUTY, BECAME A CAPTAIN IN THE U.S. ARMY AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. HE PROVED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LEADER OF MEN AND A COURAGEOUS SOLDIER. IN THE PROCESS, HE LEARNED, AS ALL SOLDIERS HAVE OVER THE AGES, OF THE HORRORS AND DESTRUCTION OF WARFARE. FIFTEEN YEARS LATER AFTER A MODEST CAREER IN LOCAL POLITICS, TRUMAN BECAME A CANDIDATE FOR THE U.S. SENATE -- A POSITION FOR WHICH HE WAS, AT BEST, marginally qualified. HE WON AND MET THE CHALLENGE. HE WORKED DILIGENTLY AS A SENATOR AND BECAME AN EFFECTIVE AND RESPECTED MEMBER OF WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED "THE WORLD'S MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUB." STILL HE WAS NOT WELL KNOWN NATIONALLY WHEN PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, RUNNING FOR A FOURTH TERM AS PRESIDENT IN 1944, SELECTED TRUMAN AS HIS RUNNING MATE. ACCEPTING THAT VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION IN 1944 WAS AN ACT OF COURAGE. TRUMAN KNEW, AS DID OTHERS AROUND ROOSEVELT, THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS IN FAILING HEALTH AND COULD NOT LIVE ANOTHER FOUR YEARS. TRUMAN IS THE RARE CASE OF A MAN ACCEPTING THE BURDEN OF THE PRESIDENCY WITHOUT SPENDING A LIFETIME IN PURSUIT OF THE OFFICE. TEN WEEKS AFTER BEING INAUGURATED AS VICE PRESIDENT, TRUMAN BECAME PRESIDENT. HE SAID HE FELT AS "IF

ALL THE STARS AND HEAVENS HAD FALLEN ON ME." YET HIS YEARS OF STUDYING HISTORY AND THE LIVES OF LEADERS HELPED TO PREPARE TRUMAN FOR THIS MONUMENTAL CHALLENGE. LIKE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT, HE HAD THE STRENGTH OF HIS CONVICTIONS AND WAS PREPARED TO TAKE RISKS ON BEHALF OF WHAT HE KNEW WAS RIGHT, SUCH AS CHAMPIONING CIVIL RIGHTS AT THE COST OF THE SUPPORT OF SOUTHERNERS IN HIS OWN PARTY. TO BE SURE, TRUMAN MADE A NUMBER OF MISTAKES AS PRESIDENT, BUT HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ESPECIALLY IN FOREIGN POLICY, ARE IMPRESSIVE. AS A JOURNALIST WROTE, "TRUMAN DOES THE LITTLE THINGS WRONG, BUT THE BIG THINGS RIGHT." HISTORIANS GENERALLY HAVE HIGH REGARD FOR THE TRUMAN PRESIDENCY. HE IS GENERALLY RANKED AMONG THE "NEAR-GREAT" PRESIDENTS. WE HAVE HAD NINE PRESIDENTS SINCE TRUMAN -- ALL OF THEM COLLEGE GRADUATES -- AND NONE HAS BEEN RATED AS HIGHLY BY HISTORIANS AS THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE FROM INDEPENDENCE. FITTINGLY, ONE OF THE LAST PHOTOGRAPHS OF HARRY TRUMAN SHOWS HIM, THEN IN HIS EIGHTIES, ALONE IN HIS BOOK-CLUTTERED STUDY QUIETLY READING ONE MORE BOOK.

AS THE LIVES OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AND HARRY TRUMAN UNDERSCORE, THERE IS ALWAYS TIME TO BE A LIFELONG LEARNER. ONE CAN ALWAYS FIND TIME TO READ AND THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOUNTER FOREIGN CULTURES AND TO PURSUE RISKY CHALLENGES. SO, MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF PHI BETA KAPPA, YOU HAVE EARNED THE DISTINCTION REPRESENTED IN A PHI BETA KAPPA KEY. I HOPE THAT KEY ALSO MARKS A PERSONAL DEDICATION TO THE CONTINUING PURSUIT OF LIBERAL EDUCATION AS A CORNERSTONE OF YOUR LIVES.