

Magnolia Veterans' Association  
Annual Scholarship Banquet  
Saturday, July 15, 2000  
7:00 p.m.  
Jackson Hilton

This is pretty motivational. Being strong in your delivery will help in the reception.

## **Opening**

1. Good evening
2. What a pleasure it is for me to join you for this evening's celebration.
3. As a former teacher, it is always nice for me to be involved with events that deal with education and students.

## **Main Points**

1. I know the value of a good education
  - a. Story about you working while the Governor was in school, and then you returning to work to get your degree.
  - b. It was not easy to get my degree, but I know how important it was.

- c. Getting my degree in elementary education allowed me to realize my dream of working with students (specifically in the area of reading).
- d. Without my degree, I would not have had that wonderful opportunity to see the faces of my students as they became better readers.
- e. It gave them a sense of accomplishment and pride that glowed in their eyes.
- f. (Insert a story about one of your students who greatly improved through your work with him/her.
- g. Witnessing their joy was better than anything else that I could have done without my degree.

2. You are helping Mississippi students realize their dreams.

- a. My situation was unique.

- b. I was not the “traditional” student, which could have been a challenge if I had allowed it to be.
- c. But I refused to let anything stop me in my pursuits.
- d. I realized my dreams of being a teacher because I had wonderful support from my husband etc.....
- e. You are helping these students realize their dreams by providing them with scholarships.
- f. I know for many of these students, you have given them the key to their educational future.
- g. Many of them might not have been able to continue their education were it not for these scholarships
- h. They now have the opportunity to focus their full efforts on their education

- i. I thank you for your commitment to these Mississippi students.
- j. And, I thank you for your commitment to education.
- k. You are making a difference in the lives of these students.

### 3. Challenge to Students

- a. Those of you who are receiving these scholarships-- it is your responsibility to do something really great with your education.
- b. No matter what you choose to be, or to do, your future is in your hands.
- c. You can choose to do something great, or something mediocre
- d. I challenge you to do something great.

- e. Along with getting good grades, I challenge you to return the kindness that has been given to you.
- f. Don't forget that you were given this scholarship by the Magnolia Veterans' Association.
- g. I hope that you will return the favor.
- h. When you complete your education, and enter the workforce, make someone else's life a little easier – Set up a scholarship fund for a student.
- i. What better way can you help another student than by awarding them a scholarship.
- j. My hope is that every person in Mississippi follow this trend of service to others.

## **Closing**

1. My best wishes to each one of you as you reach your dreams through education.
2. It has been a pleasure to be with you tonight.
3. Thank you.