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UA3/3 North Hardin High School Dedication Address

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Dedication, North Hardin High School,
May 17, 1970

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 1963 (ALMOST
EXACTLY SEVEN YEARS AGO), I WAS
HONORED TO BE THE SPEAKER AT THE
DEDICATION OF THE NEW VINE GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. I USED WORDS
AT THAT DEDICATION WHICH, I THINK,
ARE AS APPROPRIATE NOW AS THEY
WERE THEN. SO ONCE AGAIN, ONLY
WITH MINOR ~~EDITORIAL~~ CHANGES, I
ADVANCE TO YOU THE SAME THOUGHTS--
THOUGHTS WHICH I THINK ARE BASED
UPON TRUE VALUES, AND TRUE VALUES
DO NOT CHANGE.

6.

DEDICATION IS A WORD WHICH IN
ITS FULL MEANING HAS OVERTONES OF
THINGS SACRED. WE THEREFORE
SOLEMNLY AND REVERENTLY
DEDICATE THIS BUILDING.

WE DEDICATE THE NORTH HARDIN
HIGH SCHOOL TO THE BUILDING OF
STRONG MINDS--NEVER FORGETTING
THAT THE DISSEMINATION OF KNOW-
LEDGE THROUGH THE TEACHING OF
TRUTH MUST ALWAYS BE FIRST IN OUR
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

WE DEDICATE IT TO TRUE SCHOLAR-
SHIP AND ACADEMIC ATTAINMENT.

WE DEDICATE IT TO THE CREATION
OF AND APPRECIATION FOR HONESTY
AND INTEGRITY.

WE DEDICATE IT TO UNCOMPROMIS-
ING OPPOSITION TO CHEATING,
FALSITY, AND INJUSTICE-- WITHIN ITS
WALLS, WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY, OR
ANYWHERE ELSE.

WE DEDICATE IT AS A TEMPLE OF
LEARNING WHICH WILL BRIGHTEN THE
LIVES AND INCREASE THE HORIZONS OF
THOSE WHO COME WITHIN ITS PORTALS.

WE DEDICATE IT TO THE IDEAL
THAT THE STRONG BODY MUST BE KEPT
STRONG AND THAT THE WEAK BODY
MUST BE MADE STRONG, REMEMBERING
WELL THAT NO BODY IS STRONG UNLESS
IT IS STRONG OF HEART.


WE DEDICATE IT TO THE
INSPIRATION WHICH WILL PROVOKE
HIGH IDEALS OF PATRIOTISM, GREAT
DESIRE FOR SERVICE, AND AMBITION
TOWARD USEFUL CITIZENSHIP.

WE DEDICATE IT TO BEAUTY, NOT
ONLY IN THINGS PHYSICAL BUT MORE



SO IN THINGS SPIRITUAL; AND IN SO
DOING, MAY WE REMEMBER THAT
THERE IS NO BEAUTY OF GREATER
SPLENDOR THAN A LIFE WELL LIVED.

AND FINALLY, WE DEDICATE IT TO
THE OVERALL GOOD OF EVERY CHILD
WHO ENTERS HERE; AND AS WE DO SO,
LET US DIRECT A HUMBLE AND EARNEST
APPEAL TO GOD THAT ALL ASSOCIATED
IN ANY WAY WITH THE LIFE OF THIS
BUILDING MAY BE FAITHFUL TO OUR
TRUST--A TRUST VIVIDLY PORTRAYED
IN THE WORDS OF INSPIRED POETRY:



MY TRUST

THEY COME TO ME,
THIS LIVING CLAY,
WITH JOY AND HOPE AND LOVE,
UNBLIGHTED BY THE CYNIC'S DOUBT,
UNTOUCHED BY GRIEF AND CARE.

WITH EAGER FACES TURNED TO MINE,
THEY SEEK MY HELP; AND THERE
MUTE BEFORE SUCH UTTER TRUST
I BOW MY HEAD IN SILENT PRAYER.

"LORD, HELP ME MAKE THIS LIVING
CLAY

INTO WORKS OF ART SUPREME--

BEING WROUGHT BY PATIENT TOIL
AS VITAL AS THE HUMBLE SOIL,
AND YET, IN PART, FOR BEAUTY MADE
"LET ME NOT MY TRUST BETRAY
AS WITH THIS PLASTIC MASS FROM
DAY TO DAY
I MOLD PULSING SOULS,
AND SEND THEM ON LIFE'S COMPLEX
WAY."

IN CONCLUSION, LET US DEPART
THIS DEDICATORY HOUR WITH THE
FEELING THAT NO GREATER GIFT CAN
MAN BESTOW THAN GIVING OF HIMSELF
TO HELP OTHERS GROW. MAY THE
FUTURE OF THIS COMMUNITY AND
THIS COUNTY, AND ESPECIALLY OF
THIS EDUCATIONAL FACILITY, BE BOTH
BRIGHTENED AND WARMED BY THE
CONTINUOUS FIRE OF DEDICATION ON
THE PART OF ALL WHO CARE, AS WE
REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR TRUST.