

Thank you and welcome, class of 2019. It's an honor for me to be representing Admiral Peary Vo-tech. First off, I would like to say thanks. Thanks, to the faculty, staff, and all other contributors that made it possible to have such an awesome senior year. I would also like to thank Penn Cambria specifically for providing students with the chance to attend Admiral Peary Vocational Technical School.

Admiral Peary uses a hands – on approach that provides its students with the knowledge they need to enter the workforce in the field of our dreams. While there's still traditional study and academics, there is so much more. They prepare us for all kinds of careers - careers in healthcare, small business, manufacturing, and maintenance. It even lets us go beyond the Vo-Tech classroom by pursuing other opportunities, like co-op, an on the job training program. Overall, Admiral Peary works with us to obtain the certifications and the experience we need to get a job, giving us peace of mind. But, beyond just peace of mind, Vo-Tech prepares us for a career that we love. For this I'm grateful.

Recently, A friend of mine told me “that this would be the beginning of the end of our lives” and it occurred to me that this was true in a way. As children our lives are ending, but as adults our lives are just beginning. There will be no more running down the halls because you're late to class, and no more forgetting your homework assignments. Now we jump into the car to go to work or college and bring our resumes and portfolios to interviews. There is no one looking over our shoulders anymore. We now have the freedom to pursue our goals and the heavy responsibilities that go along with that. It will be hard, but that's nothing new. I encourage you, whatever your chosen path, to strive for excellence in what you do, no matter how mundane the task, no matter how difficult, regardless of the late nights and long hours. You might not know it now, but you've been made to do great things, and you're capable of so much.

But, before all that starts, it's time to celebrate. Time to celebrate our victories in life. Celebrate our victory here and those to come. We're finally done with high school; we've come a long way. So, let's embrace our accomplishments, the friendships we've made, and the people we've met. Our lives wouldn't be the same without them.

So again, I am so thankful. Thankful to our family, friends, teachers, and all the others who helped us on this long journey. The institutions we are a part of, both Penn Cambria High School and Admiral Peary Vocational Technical School, helped to mold us into who we are today. These years have not been easy, but without these challenges, we would not be ready to go out into the world. But now, we are ready - ready to pursue those dreams we've had in our heads since we were small. So, as a final thought, in the lyrics by Rod Stewart: "May the good Lord be with you down every road you roam./And may sunshine and happiness surround you when you're far from home." Thank you all, and congratulations. God bless you and God bless America!