

Northeastern University Class of 1993
Douglas E. Luffborough III
Graduation Speech
June 19, 1993

Day O, Day O, Day Light Come and Me Wanna Go Home.

*Day, Me Say Day, Me Say Day, Me Say Day, Me Say Day, Me
Say Day O. Day Light Come and Me Wanna Go Home!*

During my first week at Northeastern, I was so scared, the only thing that I wanted to do was go home. I asked myself: "Why am I here?" But then I remembered that coming to college was a dream I had always envisioned. When I was a high school senior, my mother was pregnant with her fourth child, my father was nowhere to be found, and we were homeless with nowhere to live. My mother cleans bathrooms, washes windows, and takes care of other children to create a better life for her own children. She gave all she had to find a way to get my brother and me into

college and she didn't stop until she'd found a school and a scholarship to pay for it. And that's how I got to Northeastern.

Mr. President, President Curry, Faculty, Friends, and
Classmates:

Though your stories may be different from mine, you have all had obstacles to overcome to get where you are today. But now the question is, how can we as graduates use our experience at Northeastern to better the world? Well, we can start by doing some of the same things my mother did for me, like challenging others to want nothing but the very best out of life and helping them to turn their lives around.

Because Northeastern has given us the opportunity to work side by side with leading professionals from all over the world, we are now prepared to become the future leaders of our country. Living and working in Boston has exposed us to different people, cultures, and ideas. But there are some things we have seen that

we need to change, like poverty, racism, drug abuse, and bad schools. We can change these things by applying what our experience at Northeastern has taught us-responsibility and adaptability. But, if we want change, we need to start with ourselves. And then we need to reach out to help others, because if we don't, what will the future hold for the generation that comes after us?

Many of you have already begun, in a small way, to do just that by contributing to Senior Challenge '93. Those scholarships will make a difference in the lives of the students who follow us, by giving them a future here at Northeastern; because providing educational opportunity is the most important step in making the world a better place.

And let's not lead lives filled with I should have, I could have, oh, if only I had; let it be I can, I will, and I did. Take the time to make each day count for getting something accomplish.

And remember, no one gets to top without stumbling, and by making mistake we find out how to do things right. So don't be upset if you have failed to change the whole world; instead, be inspired if you have brought hope into just one person's heart for one moment. I'd like to do that right now for my friend and our classmate Scott Davis, who lies in a coma in the hospital.

Northeastern has given all of us a choice and a chance-a choice in the way we want to live our lives and a chance to reach and even exceed our goals. Today I ask myself once again: "Why am I here? Why are we here?" We are here in part because we have earned it. But each of us also owes this day to those who helped us get here. Thank them! Thank them from the bottom of your hearts.

For me it was my mother's endless devotion to give everything she had-no matter how little-to her children, so we could make something of our lives. My mother always told me;

"Douglas, set your dreams as if they were in that corner right over there, and never take your eyes off that corner. No matter what you decide to do, never stop reaching for your dreams. And listen boy, don't let anybody or anything stop you." That's the challenge for all of us, and if we meet it one day everyone all over this country and all over the world will be able to see their dreams in that corner right over there or wherever their corner is and -one day- everyone will be able to seize those dreams and make them come true.

Congratulations, Class of '93, and may you never stop reaching to be the very best you can be. Special thanks Ma, Darrell, Derrick, and Danielle I love you. Thanks Dan Smith, Debbie, and Corso! Peace!