

Guest Speaker at the
Calvert County Adult Education Graduation
October 26, 2005
Huntingtown High School

It is such a pleasure to be with you this evening. As you may know I was appointed by the Governor last August to replace George Owings in the Maryland House of Delegates. I am so proud to be the first woman ever to represent Calvert County in Annapolis. I am also extremely proud to represent this community that I love.

Besides spending 90 days in Annapolis passing laws and approving the State budget, a big part of my job is to attend community events in an effort to meet people and find out what I can do to support them and help them. I must say that one of my most favorite events that I attended last year was this graduation. The emotion was touching, the celebration real, and the achievement so well deserved. Those graduates, like you tonight were real people working real hard to achieve real dreams. I admire people who persevere and make things happen no matter what is thrown their way. You each have your own story tonight and I wish we could hear them all. I am sure that it would involve such obstacles as adversity, children, money, love, flat tires, bounced checks, day dreams, night mares, broken laws, and the proverbial blood, sweat, and tears. Well hopefully the tears tonight are ones of joy! You deserve tonight, you deserve to celebrate, and you deserve to be fussed over. This is your night. Parents be proud of your children, children be proud of your parents, Wives, husbands, boyfriends, girlfriends, and partners be proud of your loved ones.

You all know that we live in a world of extremes; extreme make overs, extreme remodeling, extreme weight loss, extreme weigh gain, extreme survival. We as a culture seem to thrive on extremes. Maybe this makes for good TV, or bad TV depending on your point of view, but we have to make sure that we do not use this love of extremes to measure our lives. I think that we must begin to celebrate the ordinary. Whether we like the term or not, we are ordinary. We are solid, hardworking, educated citizens of this great nation and this community. We need to look around us and realize that we have excelled in our lives, homes, school, work, family, church, and community. You have so many opportunities to grab around you that will make you great. Maybe never great in the Hollywood sense of great, but who cares about that. The strength of a nation should not be measured by who we send to the moon but rather it should be measured by the solid achievements of ordinary citizens 24/7.

So as your representative in Annapolis, I say thank you for what you have accomplished tonight. You have strengthened yourself, your family, your community and your nation. We all benefit because you are trying to be all that you can be. We are proud of you and encourage you to continue to grow, learn, reach and achieve. Learning is lifelong. Take advantage of all opportunities to learn. Be thankful to those who teach you along the way, whether that be a teacher here in Calvert County, a pastor in your church, your grandmother in the kitchen, your dad under the hood of a car or your mother cheering you along the way.

We celebrate ordinary lives of extraordinary people tonight. We are proud of you and wish you

God Speed in your life's endeavors.

Delegate Sue Kullen