We are here, but we are not alone. Thousands of years ago, a class of noble Greek students stood in our place. They were excited to transition into a new phase of life, just as we are. They were recovering from severe cases of “senioritis,” just as we are. And they all possessed the great gift of knowledge, just as we do.

After twelve years of grueling and sometimes tedious work, we deserve recognition for fighting on the battlefield of knowledge. We are graduates, we are warriors.

But that is not what today is about. The Greek students, like us, wore these caps and gowns. In this, they were making a bold statement because this garb was once the wardrobe of common men: workers, builders. So why should we, the glorious warriors, wear such “low” attire? Admit it; it does nothing to reflect the dazzle of your achievements or accentuate your personal style.

In actuality, these caps and gowns aren’t “low” at all. They send a prouder message than any glamourized robe could communicate. We wear them because we are just like those common men: builders. With the tools of knowledge that we have earned, we will build a foundation of hope and dreams for the next generation. We will construct the pillars of our future.

Now that you have accepted your diplomas, remember that you are many things:

You are an achiever.

You are a conqueror.

You are a builder.

You are the future.