



## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

Week of June 26, 2017

This is a very exciting time of year with school finally over and with summer officially here. As a former educator and someone who has spent the majority of my adult life working with youth, I've really enjoyed attending some of the elementary and middle school moving up ceremonies last week. And I was especially pleased to share in the festivities of our 2017 senior class high school graduation on June 24. That special day, which signifies the end of students' high school academic careers, also served as a rite of passage to the next steps in these young people's lives. For some it will be the start of their career while others will move on to college. Whatever path these young men and women choose, living in this country offers a wealth of opportunities just waiting for those who are ready to seize them.

As parents, what is the best gift you can give to our graduates? I believe it's a continued education in life. It is so important as parents and grandparents to be there to teach these youngsters by sharing your experiences with them and supporting and guiding them so they are better prepared to meet the challenges and obstacles they will undoubtedly face as they move ahead. Be a mentor to your special graduate and show them the way. Teach them to always take the high road; the path often less traveled. If we take an active, loving role in the lives of our youth it will make a positive difference.

To all of this year's graduates who may be reading this article, a sincere and hearty congratulations on your achievement. As mayor of this village it brings me great joy to see youth in our community succeed. And I believe it is only fitting to name the entire Hempstead High School graduating class of 2017 as this week's Best of Hempstead. Each and every one of you truly represents the best that our village has to offer. All of your hard work through the years has finally brought you to the special day last week when you walked on the stage to accept your well-deserved diploma. While graduation marks the end of one chapter, it also signals the beginning of a new era. Look forward to the future with an open mind and a willingness to further explore. Don't ever be afraid to pursue your dreams. Remember, you are the future of Hempstead Village.....and the world. Continue to make us proud.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead