



Week of June 18, 2018

## From The Desk of Mayor Don Ryan

With school finally over and with summer officially here this is always a very exciting time of year. 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 this week. And I am especially looking forward to sharing in the festivities of our 2018 senior class high school graduation on June 23. That special day, which signifies the end of students' high school academic careers, will also serve 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. I especially want to offer congratulations to this year's High School Valedictorian Stephanie Chevez and Salutatorian Bairon Reyes Luna. I recently had the pleasure of spending some time with them and other student honorees during the Class of 18 Scholarship Awards Banquet at Hofstra University. Both Stephanie and Bairon will be attending Ivy League Colleges in the fall to further advance their academic achievements.

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. There are so many examples, past and present of Hempstead High School graduates whose contributions already have or someday will have a major positive impact in our society. All of your hard work through the years has finally brought you to the special day when you will walk 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 what lies ahead 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.

## This Week's Best of Hempstead



This week's Best of Hempstead honors are extended to Brigadier General Omuso George. A former student of mine who was the Hempstead High School valedictorian in 1987, General George has enjoyed a magnificent military career since graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY in 1991. General George also holds a Master of Science in Management Information Systems from Bowie State University, a Master of Education from National Louis University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Over his long and distinguished military career, General George has served at Fort Bliss and Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Riley, Kansas; Germany, South Korea, the Pentagon and Iraq. He assumed his current duties as the Director, Operations and Support in the Army Budget Office (ABO) August 2017, working at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

General George's military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Bronze Star (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Achievement Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Staff Identification Badge, the Parachutist Badge, and the U.S. Army Finance Corps Regimental Towson Medallion for distinguished service

Recently, I had the privilege of leading a contingent to Washington D.C. that included Deputy Mayor Charles Renfroe, Trustee LaMont Johnson and Town of Hempstead Senior Councilwoman Dorothy Goosby during a special ceremony where Omuso was promoted from Lt. Colonel to Brigadier General. It was truly an honor to be present and share in that glorious day when he was promoted. When I had him as a student at Hempstead High School back in the 1980's I always knew he was destined to be someone special.

Omuso, all of Hempstead is proud of your accomplishments as one of our native sons. Congratulations on being named one of Hempstead's Best and continued Godspeed.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Ryan  
Mayor of the Incorporated Village of Hempstead