

Hopes and Dreams Can Be Reached

By

Senator Pete Campos

Hopes and dreams, like flowers, change over the seasons of life. Sometimes that better tomorrow you strive for happens because something changes in the world or you see things from a new perspective. Mark Twain, an American writer and lecturer, said: don't part with your illusions. When they are gone, you may still exist, but you have ceased to live.

Whatever your wishes, they won't happen unless you prepare to make them happen, pursue them with professional persistence and never give up! Dale Carnegie, developer of courses in self-improvement, said: the most important things in the world have been accomplished by people who kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

You may have to wait patiently for a turn at something but your hopes and dreams will happen, if you work at it! It is like the lottery (where proceeds go to student scholarships); you don't have a chance of winning unless you take a chance. Thomas Jefferson, third U.S. President and principal author of the Declaration of Independence, said: nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.

Some ways to succeed with your hopes and dreams include: give them a voice (let others know about them) and pursue and weight the reality of them happening. Henry D. Thoreau, American philosopher, said: you cannot dream yourself into a character: you must hammer and forge yourself into one.

Regardless of what you hope to accomplish in your life, it is going to take vision, hard work, education, practice, persistence, and respect for others. Mohandas K. Gandhi, political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement, said: you must not lose faith in humanity.

It has taken our immediate family, relatives, friends and other members of our community to give us unconditional advice, wholehearted support and endless love so that we would be afforded numerous opportunities to become educated and reach career goals. Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, an English statesman, said: the secret of success in life is to be ready for your opportunity when it comes.

Regardless of your status in the community, you can make a positive difference for yourself and others. It is going to take learning from past experiences, keeping enthused about your role in life and setting bold new goals. Virgil, an ancient Roman poet, said: they can because they think they can.

As I began a new endeavor in my life, someone would say: you don't have the experience to do the job. My response would be, I will work hard, learn all that I can and pursue my new task with enthusiasm. The experience, like that of those who have been in a position

like this one for a long time, will come one day at a time. Ralph Waldo Emerson, an American philosopher, said: every artist was first an amateur.

I believe if you pursue your hopes and dreams through the ups-and-downs of life and remain motivated to live life to its fullest, you will someday look back at a life well lived. William Edward Hickson, editor of the Westminster Review, said it best: **if at first you don't succeed, try, try again.**

Senator Campos is a past President of the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce and is a motivational speaker.