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SD Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary Zimmerman June 2018 Column

Dr. Seuss once said, “Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.”

That was my exact sentiment this weekend while attending my grandson’s graduation from Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School. I have been fortunate to be there the day he was born at EAFB, the day he was baptized at McChord Air Force Base, and hundreds of other great milestones in his life.

Watching your grandchildren navigate the world and start new chapters in their lives reminds us how much the landscape has changed since we started our trek. Life’s lessons compel us to continue to learn, and the more life we experience, the more lessons we collect in our journal.

Graduation is an important accomplishment, a springboard to the future, a future of many chapters unwritten.

My grandson’s graduation day was huge, but I have to keep reminding myself this is just the beginning of some amazing laps in his race through life.

It’s been said that “People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.” So Daylon, and all the 2018 graduates, let your inner light shine bright! Make this world a better place. It is up to you to determine what our country will look like 10, 20, and 50 years from now.

I’m confident you’ll succeed and the world will be a better place.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs