

MONDAY MESSAGE

FROM DR. MCFARLAND



And then some...

November 6, 2017

As I reflected on this past week, I found myself thinking about my Aunt Mary from Buna, Texas. Aunt Mary passed recently, but growing up, she was the life of any party and never met a stranger. She was about 70 years old and still performed her Tina Turner routine at the VFW hall every year during the Redbud festival. She was a hoot! I love my Aunt Mary for many reasons, but what really made her unique was her desire and zeal to be the absolute best at whatever she was doing.

In addition to her many talents, Aunt Mary was an outstanding baker. She won the annual bake off at her church for as long as I can remember. She loved to cook gingerbread cakes, sweet potato pies, peach cobbler, blackberry cobbler and cheesecake. My cousins and I could not wait for her to finish so we could lick the bowls and mixers. Those were some great days.

The most important thing I remember about Aunt Mary is she took pride in her baking and always made sure her dish was just right. She would always do everything required to make the dish — and then some! In every dish she would add a pinch of this or little bit of that. It could be a few extra pecans, a squirt of lemon flavor, a few nuts, and then when appropriate, she would always place a cherry on top.



I remember one day asking her why she always put the little extras on her desserts. Her response was, “If I simply follow the recipe and did what everyone else was doing, then I would have an average dessert and ain’t nuttin’ ‘bout me average! I am all that and then some.” I think back to this conversation I had with my Auntie, and I realize what she was really sharing with me was one of the secrets to achieving excellence and becoming extraordinary. She was committed and not compliant. She was an “and then some” kind of person.

Are you an “and then some” kind of person, and are you putting the “cherry on the top” every day, or are you simply complying? Are you committed, or are you compliant? Commitment and compliance on the surface looks the same. However, there is an obvious difference if you look deeper. **The challenges we are facing require much more than just compliance.** Compliance is showing up every day, doing your job, getting your paycheck and going home. Doing just enough to keep your job may seem like enough to you, but the reality is, it is not. Just showing up is not enough to accomplish our goals.

I saw many “and then some” soldiers this weekend at the Ag Show. It was amazing to see the level of intensity, focus and discipline exhibited by the students as they showed their animals. It was reaffirming to speak with the instructors and to hear about the level of commitment required and the lessons that students were learning in the agricultural program. You see the same great attitudes from our fine arts teachers and band instructors when you observe their level of intensity as they prepare our students for performances and competition. It is obvious that all of these individuals are doing their job and then some.

In order for us to create a premier school district, **we must be committed to take “and then some” action.** We must be willing to do everything that is required, everything that is expected, everything that is needed — and then some. It’s that little extra that separates the good from the great. I have a desire to be the best, and thus the organization with which I serve, and the people on the team, must have that same desire. When one finds himself in the middle of a war, the first natural response is to look around to make sure he is not fighting alone. As I look around, I see a lot of “and then some” soldiers. What do you see?

With something to think about, I’m Mike McFarland, challenging all of us to continue to do what is required and then some.

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