

**LMS NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION
KEYNOTE SPEECH
BY LAWRENCE VILLAGE MAYOR MARTIN OLINER**

On behalf of the Village of Lawrence, it is with real enthusiasm that I welcome each of you to this Induction Ceremony of the National Junior Honor Society of the Lawrence Middle School. Congratulations to every student, and to your parents, families, teachers and administrators; you can all be proud of this wonderful achievement.

Acceptance into the National Junior Honor Society is proof of academic excellence achieved through effort, patience, diligence and a devotion to learning. It also reflects leadership and character, and who you are as a person. It proves you are someone who can be relied upon, and counted on to do something, do it well and do it for the right reason. You are someone who believes in hard work and teamwork. These are skills and qualities that will serve you well as you continue through school, career and life itself.

The Lawrence Middle School is a very special place because it's right in the middle of our Village. It's the center of excitement, action, the joy of learning, the magic of discovery and the warmth of friendship and happy times as different cultures and groups come together. As Mayor of the Village of Lawrence, I can tell you that whatever has made you great students and great kids, will someday make you great citizens and great leaders.

Take your talents and step out into the world to change it and make it better. Accept the challenge of doing good for others. Become whatever you choose to be but be capable, caring and devoted. Continue the public service you've begun here in Junior High School and someday, whether as an elected official or a community leader, take a look at a problem and say, "this needs to be solved and I can solve it". "Can I unclog the traffic or rebuild the school? Or expand the library?" Just ask "can I improve the quality of life not just for myself, but for my neighbor and my neighbor's neighbor"?

It's that spirit of wanting to be a good citizen and wanting to serve that builds a village like Lawrence and has built America. America is an exceptional place because of exceptional people who come, as did I, from other countries, but who believe in honesty, hard work and freedom. After World War II I was born in a "displaced person's camp" – a place for those without a home and without a country. My parents brought me to America. Because of them and because of America, I was able to go to school, become a lawyer, a businessman and eventually the Mayor of Lawrence. I learned the importance of leadership, citizenship, scholarship and service.

Now you're learning and practicing these important ideals and we know you will only improve upon them and make them better. We are all counting on you and are confident you can do it. Once again, congratulations on being honored tonight as the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society of the Lawrence Middle School. May you continue to be a source of honor and pride to your school, your family and your community.