

To: The Members of the Union High School Track Alumni Association

I suppose that it is normal this time of year to reminisce about the past and the friends you have known, but this year I find it difficult to do without feeling down.

At our Reunions each year, I try to make it a point to ask each member I speak to how they are doing, and where they are working. Now, as I read the papers and listen to the radio and TV, I hear many of the companies you work for are in trouble and are laying off people.

As children of the Great Depression (born, 1933), whose formative years were during World War II (as was the case for many of your parents), both June and I can understand what some of you may be going through and we worry about you.

Growing up in that era instilled a certain "Pack Rat" mentality in us, and we would not throw anything out in case the Depression came back and we needed the item. My daughter would laugh at us and tell us "that could never happen again". Well, look where we are. To paraphrase the philosopher George Santayana, "If we don't learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it". What is the difference between speculating on stocks (the 1920s) or sup-prime mortgages (1998-2008)? It looks like we are heading in the same direction. I hope and pray not.

I hope that your background in athletics gave you the fortitude to hang in there when things get tough, and to continue looking for a way that you can succeed despite the odds.

When things get tough for my kids or grandchildren, I tell them one of Abe Lincoln's favorite sayings:

"THIS TOO SHALL PASS"

Hang in there, and have the best possible Holiday Season and a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year.

Hope to see you all in JUNE.