



Military Order of World Wars YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Rules for Success

The following suggested rules for success were prepared by Colonel Pendleton Woods, director of the American Citizenship center at the request of the author of a book he was editing for young people. These rules may sound idealistic, but are very practical suggestions which will pay off personally to one who follows them.

1. Never waiver in loyalty. I place this as rule number one, because if one is not loyal, it will inevitably be learned and when learned, no ability, cleverness, nor productive quality will ever be able to compensate for lack of loyalty. This means, of course, loyalty to individuals, institutions and causes worthy of loyalty. It means loyalty to your country, your state, your community, your school, your family, your employer and your friends. It is alright to criticize, to argue, or to disagree, but never to be disloyal.

2. Do things for others. It pays off personally. True, there are some whom you have helped who will turn against you or take unfair advantage of you, but on the average, you are paid back, with interest, in many ways.

3. Do not measure success in wealth. Money is not the source of all evil, as sometimes has been written, however, the lust for money can be. When the second richest man in my state died, his fortune was divided among his two sons, and the following year the Forbes list of 500 richest showed the two, even after the split, to be second and third wealthiest in the state. Their names often appeared in the local newspaper, usually dealing with financial disputes between them. Recently one of the men committed suicide. The estate was valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars, but the money appeared to have brought more misery than happiness.

4. Always live below your means. When one has money problems, it usually is because of debts. Some of the supposedly wealthiest people I have known have been known to fall into bankruptcy and lost virtually all their property as a result of living beyond their means. It is better to own a ten-year-old automobile which drives well and to have no debts than to own a brand-new luxury car, along with a payment which stretches the budget.

5. Don't allow failure to dim your effort. Nearly all successful people have had many failures along the way. C.R. Anthony lost all his savings and found himself in debt after his first attempt at retailing. Two more failures followed before he founded a store which eventually covered half the states in the U.S. Virgil Browne failed miserably three times before founding one of the most successful Coca-Cola manufacturing and distribution systems in the Southwest. Thomas Edison failed nearly one hundred times before finally creating the first usable electric light bulb. History shows a long string of failures by Abraham Lincoln on his way to eventually becoming President of the United States.

6. Take care of your body. It is your most valuable possession. There is the temptation of drugs and alcohol, which can destroy your ambition, your ability to produce, and eventually your mind. There is the even stronger temptation of sexual misconduct, which not only can bring about the most serious and deadly of health problems, but which can dull the meaning of a future lifetime relationship? Doctors say that the most addictive of all is tobacco. As a prisoner of war in Germany, where cigarettes were not available, fellow prisoners who had become used to smoking were so addicted that they not only would smoke used cigarette butts which they found

on the ground, but would also smoke any substance – even manure – if they found it.

Recently I visited a friend in the hospital who had a golf ball sized cancer removed from his lungs. He had stopped smoking ten years ago, but damage had been done which caused the cancer. One of my closest friends is taking cobalt treatments and yet he is unable to stop smoking. Why take up a habit today which you will be regretting and fighting to stop within only a few years?

7. Never stop having goals. As you achieve one goal, reach for another. You may not achieve all your goals – few people do – but that is not as important as making the constant effort toward them. Many years ago, I visited a 96-year-old man named Guy Emerson, whose background and accomplishments were many. He told me about a gold mine area where he and some partners had made a successful prospecting attempt. They eventually ran out of resources and had to abandon it. “But I’m going back”, he said, “because I know there is gold there.” Whether this 96-year-old man made it back, I do not know, because I lost track of him. But certainly, the dream never dies as long as he lived.

8. Never feel sorry for yourself. Were you born with a handicap? Overcome it or compensate for it. Greg Burns was born without the use of his hands, but by painting with a brush between his teeth, he became one of the finest artists in the Southwest. Tom Southall was born without a right arm – only a stub and no elbow. But he became the leading running back, top scorer and captain of the football team at Colorado College. Helen Keller lived without sight or hearing, but became world-famous for the contributions she made for the handicapped.

9. Do not become a prisoner of your peers. If you believe something is right, stand up for it. Do not be afraid to be a minority of one against the crowd, if you truly believe that you are right and the crowd is wrong. Many who allow themselves to get in to trouble do so, not because of personal intent, but because the crowd is doing it and they want to be part of the crowd. Peer pressure is perhaps the strongest pressure upon youth and the most difficult to reject. However, those who are strong are able to reject it.

10. Be willing to serve. When you are gone, the contributions you made only for your own enjoyment will die with you. What you have done for your community, your church, the public welfare, and other people will live. You may or may not be identified with these accomplishments, but they are there and they are your legacy, along with those who follow in your footsteps.