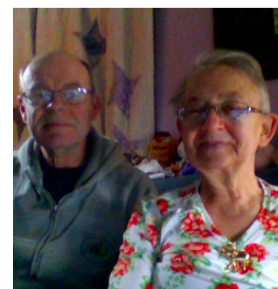




Graduation Speech

Never in a million years did I ever think I would
Arrive at this important day in my life. Graduation!
When I walked into Vermont Adult Learning
Four years ago I was facing
An insurmountable mountain
That looked impossible to climb.
But here I am at the finish line
Proving that it can be done.
Because of my learning disability
I was always told that I was
Too dumb, too different to succeed.
The Amazing teachers,
At Vermont Adult Learning
Took those differences,
While teasing out my gifts and interests
Turning them into potential.
Much has changed in the last four years
Because of my schooling.
I have lost 108 pounds
Because of the walking program in PE.
Learning has allowed me
To explore and absorb knowledge,
As well as becoming established and confident.
Lastly, I have started a small business
called Artistic Streak
Making hand-drawn cards,
decorated birdhouse and plaques,
as well as anything that I can draw and paint on.
However, I did not get here alone.
It was a team effort!
So I would like to thank all those
who gave of themselves tirelessly to
get me to the finish line.
First of all my beloved Husband, Allan
Who put up with my hectic schedule
Driving me here and there at all hours of the day.
And caring for the household
so I could do my homework.
Secondly, my family and friends
Who supported me in all my ups and downs.
Thirdly, all the determined, and talented
Teachers at Vermont Adult Learning
Who bent over backwards to enable me to
Learn, discover, and experience life,
Making me the person I am today.
Lastly, I would like to thank and give tribute
To the ONE who is my Life,
My Lord Jesus Christ
To my great God who is the
Very power, might, and wisdom
Of whom I have become.
A Graduate, an entrepreneur,
and a thriving member of society.
"For I can do all things through Christ
Who is my strength!"
Thank you!



-Laurentia Batchelder, VAL Graduate, 2022