

American Inspiration

Thoughts for today and every day . . .

“When you have suffered deeply, you understand that courage is the only way to fight fear, the best way to take a step forward. This is the first move to be better.” Lopez Lomong



“Success does not have an auto-pilot. You need to work at it every day.”
Gordon Bethune



“Technique and ability alone do not get you to the top; it is the will power that is the most important—it rises from your heart.” Junko Tabei



“Good education is not so much one which prepares someone to succeed in the world, as one which enables them to sustain failure.”
Bernard Iddings Bell

American Update



We have had perfect weather this week in Texas as we have been blessed with cool nights and mild days. It is a gift of the farewell of spring and the welcoming of summer around the corner. So many of you have had tryouts for your new team and your new officers. 2011-2012 season will bring a new breath of fresh air to your team and your school. Here is wishing you the best of success in the coming year.

Start your new season off with the best training for your team with an American Dance/Drill Team summer camp. We have the most innovative choreography, free DVD to each team and officer group, free music CD and Handbook CD with reference handbooks for directors, officers, social officers and managers. Private Camps receive the Visual Notes DVD in advance so that you can preview and select the routines you want your team to learn at your camp. Each bid is processed and customized to meet your needs and price range. We have team camps at the top college campuses and Four Diamond hotels and resorts. Make sure to learn more about our [summer camps on our web site](#).

For helpful hints on organization, line tryouts, officer tryouts, fundraising and more, visit our [Education Support](#) page on our web site with over 100 helpful articles.

Inspiration of the Week

The Last Eight Count

by Sarah McKinnis

Hallsville HS Bobcat Belles

*My heart grew heavy as I stepped onto the floor
I took my position and prepared to soar
My dancing sisters to my right and my left
Girls that within 10 lifetimes I could never forget
Those who had been with me through times that were bad
With whom I shared the best times I've ever had
I kicked my highest and I spun my hardest
I smiled my widest and I leapt my farthest
All so that I could walk away and know
I wanted to dance my best and I had done so
With all of my heart and my soul
With gracefulness, style, and control
I danced my last eight count with the team by my side
I walked off the floor smiling, but inside cried
How do you lose something that you love to do?
Without it how can you still feel you're you?
That night as I laid down my head
I prayed a prayer to God as I stirred restlessly in bed
"God, please whatever you do,
don't let the worst fear of mine ever come true*

*I'll be whatever you want me to be
Just don't let that be the last eight count for me"
Then God looked down at me and smiled
"Why should it ever be, my child?
As long as there is music and love
As long as there are stars above
The gift that I gave you will be there
You can dance anytime, anywhere."*

This weekly message is generated from:

Joyce Pennington, Pres. CEO

**American ★★★★★**
Dance/Drill Team ★★
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