

Inspiring Quotes From the
2024 Campaign, Our
History & Sports Champions

BE A GREAT ONE

COMPILED BY
STEVE L. LOOTEN SR.



BE A GREAT ONE

Copyright 2025 by Steve L. Looten Sr.

Published April 2025

By Indies United Publishing House, LLC

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ISBN: 978-1-64456-806-4 [Paperback]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-807-1 [Kindle]

ISBN: 978-1-64456-808-8 [ePub]

Library of Congress Control Number: 2025903467



INDIES UNITED PUBLISHING HOUSE, LLC

P.O. BOX 3071

QUINCY, IL 62305-3071

www.indiesunited.net

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....5

INTRODUCTION.....7

CHAPTER ONE.....11

CHAPTER TWO.....14

CHAPTER THREE.....20

CHAPTER FOUR.....27

CHAPTER FIVE.....31

CHAPTER SIX.....40

CHAPTER SEVEN.....46

CHAPTER EIGHT.....53

CHAPTER NINE.....58

CHAPTER TEN.....70

CHAPTER ELEVEN.....79

CHAPTER TWELVE.....84

FOREWORD

GLENN JACOBS

WWE HALL OF FAME WRESTLER, "KANE"

Just about every political speech of 2024 dealt in one form or another with the future.

Any discussion about security, economy, jobs, trade, or health care all considered ways to make life in the United States better.

I believed Donald Trump, and certainly his team of advisors, provided the answers to offer us hope. This is why I enthusiastically support his efforts.

In my career in the ring, I quickly learned of the urgency for sacrifice and hard work to get ahead in life. I grew up in Missouri, and while I didn't have many major obstacles in reaching for my goals, I didn't have an easy journey either.

Mom and Dad made sure I was on the right path. They always made sure I heard what I needed to hear.

That is what excites me about this book, *"Be A Great One."*

We all can make improvements and strive for more success, but it's especially important for our youth to be encouraged to do so. I had to learn a lot of hard lessons along the way. I was tossed around in the ring for many years (and hurled a few bad guys myself,) but in my political career I've

realized it also takes focus, teamwork and dedication to get things done, and it's never too late to start.

I've known the author, Steve Looten, for nearly 40 years. He was our sports TV guy back home in the middle of America and has seen many great victories and comebacks. This book may inspire more.

When he asked me to write this foreword for the book, he pointed out that I am the only person to know both Steve Looten and Donald Trump. Yes, my life is unique that way. One guy reported on how kids ARE great, while the other plans to Make America Great Again.

I have been blessed, and I hope Steve's book helps show the readers that from the great lessons learned in the 2024 campaign, their lives can be enriched and blessed, too.

I hope you enjoy "Be A Great One."

Maybe if it's a big seller, Steve's next book could be called "How I Survived My Time In The Ring With KANE."

Ding, Ding

INTRODUCTION

INSPIRING QUOTES FROM THE 2024 CAMPAIGN, OUR HISTORY & SPORTS CHAMPIONS

“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.” -- Nelson Mandela.

At times, planning for the future could refer to tomorrow, next week, next month, or even a few years ahead. When you're a kid, you might hear the phrase “save for the future” but that sounds like a hundred years away.

It seems like tomorrow will never come. But when you get older, you learn that the future knocks on your door soon enough. College tuition is an early slap in the face from reality, and bigger challenges are just a few more years ahead.

The youngest voters in the 2024 election were just ten years old when Donald Trump was elected the 45th president of the United States, and now they are already making a difference in today's world. Their future has arrived. This world will soon be theirs.

The Election of 2024 is their launching pad. Where do they

go from here?

Nobody can benefit more from this election than today's youth. The life lessons shared by these candidates can pave the way for unbelievable successes for them, if they watch, listen, and learn. It's time for action.

In this book, we are reminded of an exciting future imagined by today's politicians, as well the words of champion athletes and other leaders who've learned to win. Their lessons can help shape the future for us all. In the 2024 campaign, new voices joined the discussion, and the future is exciting.

Their words may inspire greatness.

I am not an expert. I just love to tell stories about thrilling victories. I'm just a guy who loves this country and wants the best for our kids and future leaders. I am a sportscaster, and I just retired this year. I've always loved to talk about our area's conquering heroes, so you'll read plenty of great quotes from the sports world here. (I just can't stop it.) I believe sports provide the greatest reality TV of all. You win or lose. It's on you.

Honestly, the day after the election, regardless of who won, we all had to find a way to get out of bed, go to work or school, and live our best life. This time, Republicans won. More U.S. citizens believed what they had to say, and believed better days are ahead. In this book, we'll read the words that made a difference and gave us hope.

I greatly appreciate Glenn Jacobs' foreword. For a big bad dude from WWE, I've always known that he has a tremendous heart and cares about his family, community and country. Yes, he is a champion in many ways.

He was, and is, A Great One.

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CHAPTER ONE

GOLDEN AGE

“America’s future will be bigger, better, bolder, richer, safer and stronger than it has ever been before.” -- **Donald J. Trump**, elected 47th President of the United States

On Election Day, November 5, 2024, as votes were being counted in the close Presidential race, **Brit Hume**, Fox News Chief Political Analyst, said of Republican candidate Donald Trump, “He’s the toughest son of a gun I’ve ever seen.”

Trump had been knocked around and tested in every way since his first election in 2016. From day one, Washington Democrats were determined to ruin his reputation, get him thrown out of office, financially destroy Trump, and even throw him in jail.

But this seemed to energize Trump. He just wouldn’t go away, and certainly would not be eliminated. He seemed to be energized by the interference and seemed more determined to overcome it all. They say, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.” Trump muscled up.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Steve Looten, Sr. just reached the magical age of 65, when he should have all the answers. But that's not really the case.

Each step of the way, he's found that there seem to be more questions than answers. And he's learned to listen.



Most of his career was in front of the TV camera as a sportscaster on WGEM-TV in Quincy, IL. But occasionally he was able to volunteer for duty when presidential candidates came through town. In 1988, Mike Dukakis visited Quincy, and Steve served as the pool cameraman to follow the Democratic candidate through the streets of downtown. When Al Gore ran against George Bush in 2000, he cruised down the Mississippi, and again Steve volunteered to shoot video. As the Mark Twain Riverboat drifted into Hannibal, Missouri, from the north, Steve pointed out all the tourist sites to Al and Tipper Gore and Joe & Hadassah Lieberman. "It was fun to point out the lighthouse up on the bluff, and the location of the famous white picket fence."

After 20 years in various local business positions, he returned to the sidelines in 2023 for one last hurrah. After a

23-year “vacation,” he was lucky to “be a kid again,” shooting highlights and telling those stories on TV.

This book quotes many highly successful leaders and politicians, but the heroes in his professional life were the local stars he covered who overcame adversity to achieve greatness. You may not have heard of them, but Michael Payne, Bruce Douglas, Amy Miller, Michael Washington, Rick Little, Drew Quinn, DeWella Holiday, the Ragar girls, Amber Law, Kirk Mosely, Tim Fischer, Terry Bussard, David Winslow, Kent Hackamack, Craig King, Bud Schrader, Larry Lunsford, Willard Sims, Kurt Warner, Sharlene Peter, Gus Traeder, Reno Pinkston, D.A. Weibring, Caren Kemner, Ben Daniel, Bill Connell, Ben Pitney, Norm Stewart, Loren Wallace, Don Foster, Steve Hawkins, Sherrill Hanks, Jerry Leggett, Diane Glaub, Gina Ensalaco, Mary Jane Johnson, Gregg Nesbitt, Beth Leisen, Dave Bennett, Jack Mackenzie, Fred Bouchard, Jim Unruh, Matt Long, Brad Dixon, Elijah Genenbacher, Owen Uppinghouse, Aneyas Williams, Khloe Nicholson and Tom Lepper have shown extraordinary character seldom seen in the halls of Congress. THEY are the leaders Steve remembers most because he saw their special qualities in person. And there were hundreds more.

“I told their stories. And I loved seeing the future through their eyes. I hope our political giants can lead as well as these athletes and coaches I’ve known,” Steve said.

“My wife, Amy, and Steve Jr. and Dan make every day special, and have given me a wonderful life. I hope everyone finds that kind of joy.”

This book is an effort to encourage the readers to shoot for the stars and achieve great success. The 2024 Election revealed some courageous efforts by our leaders that can impact our lives for generations. But, it will be actions, not words that will define their greatness.

With education, motivation, determination and preparation for opportunity, we can all “Be A Great One.”