



Date: 25 February 2011  
To: All Employees  
Re: **Friday Letter 25 February 2011**

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Good Day Fellow Members of the Pack: *The following is a message from the desk of the "Big Dog"*



*The Big Dog is on the road making site visits today. He will be back with us sharing words of wisdom next Friday. In the meantime, here is one of my favorite poems that is quite appropriate.*

**I Promise Myself**

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on  
to the greater achievements of the future.  
To wear a cheerful expression at all times  
and give a smile to every living creature I meet.  
To give so much time to improving myself  
that I have no time to criticize others.  
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger,  
too strong for fear, and too happy to permit  
the presence of trouble.  
To think well of myself and to proclaim this fact to the world,  
not in loud words, but in great deeds.  
To live in the faith that the whole world is on my side,  
so long as I am true to the best that is in me.

**Quote of the Week**

**There are countless ways of attaining greatness, but any road to reaching one's maximum potential must be built on a bedrock of respect for the individual, a commitment to excellence, and a rejection of mediocrity.**

**Buck Rodgers**

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We completed the rollout of the Eglin Saber Health Plans last week. As a reminder enrollment forms need to be returned by Monday, 28 February.



*The following member of the pack celebrates another year on the planet:*

***Tommy Lovett – Eglin Saber Team – 27 February 2011***

**Be sure to join me in wishing him a Happy Big Dog birthday!**



*The following individuals will celebrate another year as a member of the pack this week.*

***John Warner – Eglin Saber Team – 1 March – 1Year***

***Robert Jordan – Eglin Saber Team - 1 March - 1 Year***

***Please join me in congratulating them on their anniversary.***

In honor of Black History Month, this week we salute Dr. Joyce Gillie Gossom (see below). Dr. Gossom is an Incumbent Fort Walton Beach Council Woman and is currently running for reelection to Seat 2.

Once again, time flies and so must I. Until next time keep up the good work and remain **SAFE** (Stay Accident Free Everywhere).

Chief  
Alonzo L. Smith  
Vice President  
Human Resources, Plans and Administration

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## **joyce gillie gossom, EdD**

Dr. joyce gillie gossom and her husband Thom have lived in Fort Walton Beach since 1999.

She is an entrepreneur, a businesswoman, a philanthropist, an academic, wife, mother, aunt, and godmother.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, joyce has spent her life going against the grain. At the age of 16, she was so inspired by the poetry of e.e. cummings that her Mother let her legally change her name to all lower case letters, which has frequently met with strong opposition from those who sought to define her.

Although inspired by a small number of known and unknown history makers, joyce has achieved, not by living up to the standards of others, but by living up to her own expectations. Her more than 30 years of professional experience include working as a special education teacher, a management consultant, and as an instructional designer and supervisor in the nuclear industry. In addition, joyce has been a small business owner and higher education instructor. In 2004, she joined the University of West Florida (UWF) where she currently serves as the Associate Dean for UWF Emerald Coast.

Throughout her career, joyce has served as an active member or officer with numerous civic, professional, and community organizations. She believes Fort Walton Beach should be a community where our children and grandchildren want to live, not just visit. And as a City Council Member, she supports making decisions that don't undermining the city's livability, by seeking new ways to create new revenue and savings.

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