

Sisters and Brothers,

Each day when I wake I say to myself, **“This is the first day of the rest of my life. What can I do today to make the world a better place?”** ...Then I begin my day. I have lived by this motto for many, many years now and it has helped me through beautiful times and challenging, sad times and it helps me frame a good perspective on the day to come. I truly believe that each day we can do something to help another. I also recognize that today truly is the first day of the rest of my life, meaning to me that no matter how tired, hard, difficult the day before may have been, today is a new day and I have the power to shape the outcome of the day ahead.

My uncle, **William Homer Young, Jr., PGP**, had for one of his favorite songs, **“One Day at a Time”** by Christy Lane. This is also a favorite song of my mom’s, **Sabra Humphrey, PGM**. This song has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Sister **Kati Yates, our Junior PGM**, many times had us reflect on the deeper meaning of words. I applaud her for that, because through deeper personal reflection on words that guide us, we may find hidden treasures and strength. Have you ever really thought about the words of the song **“One Day at a Time”**? A few of the passages that really resonate with me are:

*Help me believe in what I could be
And all that I am.
Show me the stairway, I have to climb.
Lord for my sake, teach me to take
One day at a time.*

Another section I find particularly inspirational, that aligns with what I say to myself each morning, is this passage:

*Just give me the strength
To do everyday what I have to do.
Yesterday’s gone sweet Jesus
And tomorrow may never be mine.*

During this time of COVID-19, we each find ourselves facing new challenges. Last week when the Governor announced the extension to her stay-at-home order, moving the date to May 15 th , it left me feeling deflated, frustrated, and tired. In addition to everything else, also late last week, one of our mining operations here in southwest NM, with over 1000 employees, announced the layoff of those employees. Yet, in those moments of dismay, I reminded myself, **“tomorrow is the first day of the rest of my life and I can continue to climb that stairway, one day at a time, while I work to make the world a better place.”**



Many of you know I am in broadcast, running four radio stations. There are so many stressors and needs with that. There is the sincere need to help with the narrative and dispersing facts and important safety information to help people truly understand the situation. (By the way I find sensational, fake news such a disgrace.) I have found myself working to bring together healthcare providers, county leadership, emergency planners, various mayors and town leaders...so many, for the purpose of encouraging collaborative and have continued to work daily on unified messages specific to our area to help our citizens stay safe and stay informed. At the same time, I work very hard to help the business clients of SkyWest Media and the radio station make it through the business crisis that has emerged due to the health crisis. I have worked hours and hours on special ad campaigns across all forms of media to help businesses who were open survive and those who were closed, develop strategies for when they are to reopen. Being chairman of the Chamber of Commerce board of directors, this also placed me in a position to work with over 300 businesses on information for loans, special programs, and obtaining resources needed—then to advocate for business.

With that notion, last week I began a new initiative for our area, forming and becoming chairman of a “Next Step Task Force” that is composed of 10 community leaders and 4 sub-committees, covering 40 businesses, to examine how businesses can reopen in our county when the Governor finally says—good to go. The mayors across the state have been asked to present plans to the Governor on what our communities will do to reopen safely when the time comes. These plans focus on customer and employee safety as well as how to instill customer confidence and educate businesses on best safety practices. We have to look at forming solid plans for economic recovery and resiliency, while being sensible to public safety. So this is what my new “additional” focus has been this week and last and will continue...helping to formulate this actionable plan with many other brilliant minds.

I can tell you firsthand our state is working hard to figure a path through this, to save economies and to keep our citizens as safe as possible. I am working hard to get businesses to come together, talk about their issues, and develop plans that can get us all back up on our feet as safely and responsibly as possible. The health threat is just as real as it was 7 weeks ago, but our knowledge and preparedness has grown and our new normal can be defined with sensible practices and well thought-out and implemented plans.

I know each of you are dealing with the stresses of COVID-19 in different ways. I encourage you to find strength in helping others. We can all make a difference. “We are all making difference together!” When you pick up the phone and call someone to see how they are, you are helping. If you buy an extra few items from the store for your neighbor when you go (hopefully you limit your trips), you are helping to limit their exposure. When you help with your church or food pantry, homeschool children, or go to work every day, like so many of us are doing, you are helping---one day at a time, we are climbing a stairway and making difference.

I send to you my strength and love for this journey.

Here is a big Star Hug,
Sabrina-Your Grand Conductress