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### ALWAYS READY FOR DUTY

It's been one of those "mixed emotion" weeks. Sitting with family to watch our eldest granddaughter cross the stage and receive her Grade 12 graduation certificate, I couldn't help but reflect on what had transpired over the years. That precious bundle of red hair, enthusiasm and stubborn...er...determination had grown and become a precious example of enthusiasm mingled with stubborn...oops, determination. And, she's still got red hair.

Like all children, each of our granddaughters has a unique personality and Elizabeth's definitely matches her plans to enter the Canadian military. She thrives on the discipline of Army Cadets, the challenge of overcoming her fear of heights, and the loyalty that's been fostered within her troop. She's rather go on parade than go shopping any day!

In a distinct departure from her usual attire, she joined her classmates and dressed up for grad celebrations and I must say she looked gorgeous in her steel blue gown. But true to her nature, under the satin and crinolines she donned one of the symbols of her goals – her gleaming army boots.

We got a good chuckle and a few photos of her spit-and-polish footwear peeking out beneath the satin. It also triggered a few thoughts: throughout life each of us faces different circumstances that call for different actions. (Who hasn't experienced "wearing a different hat"?) Though the external things often have to be adapted to the situation, it's vital that we remain vigilant in protecting those things that we value most.

Moses spoke to the twelve tribes of Israel on the occasion of his death, not their graduation yet I couldn't help but think of his words of challenge and blessing to Asher. I'm passing them on to Elizabeth- and us:

"Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be."  
(Deuteronomy 33:25 KJV)