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In this month's column, I wish to give you the words of others rather than my own. These are quotes I have chosen among the many that I keep in my computer and personal organizer, and are representative of ones that I find interesting and educational. I have picked ones you may not have heard before, rather than the familiar, such as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, because you already know it. So don't get mad and write because I left out your favorite.

Here's my selection, who said them, and a little bit about why and when they were said or my personal commentary. I hope you find herein some inspiration of your own:

*"This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy."* - George Bernard Shaw. This is a line from the great playwright's 1903 work entitled "Man and Superman." With all of today's societal emphasis blaming our problems on someone else, I think this quote is particularly relevant.

*"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty or safety."* - Benjamin Franklin. Franklin wrote this in an article for the Historical review of Pennsylvania in 1759. I chose this Franklin quote because so many legislators in Sacramento seem willing to sacrifice almost any liberty in order to ensure that we are all metaphorically encased in bubble wrap by government fiat for our own safety.

*"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of its blessings. The inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of its miseries."* - Sir Winston Churchill. This saying of Churchill's is instructive to the many elected officials out there who call themselves Democrats but whose policies are clearly socialist. The truth of Churchill's words has been born out in the history of the last 60 years.

*"The true gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from goodwill and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."* - Dr. John Walter Wayland. You probably have never heard of John Walter Wayland. He was a professor of history at the University of Virginia and other institutions and a writer and historian. He wrote this in 1899 at the age of 27 in response to a contest in the Baltimore Sun for the best definition of a "true gentleman." Wayland's submission won, was printed and has been subsequently reprinted many places, including in the manual used at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis.

*"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press On' has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race."* - Calvin Coolidge. A prolific writer after his presidency, Coolidge wrote this in 1932, just a year before his death. In my experience in business and politics, these words are accurate.

*"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."* - Reinhold Niebuhr. Generally known as the "serenity prayer," the passage is most often attributed to 20th century Protestant theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr. However, the exact origin of the prayer is shrouded in mystery, and others attribute it to such diverse sources as a late-Roman philosopher, a 17th century German theologian, a 14th century soldier and St. Francis of Assisi. Whoever wrote it, it remains a great source of solace for us all.