

Commemorative speech



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

It's not that easy being green. It's not that easy being a frog, either. Some would say that he is the most awesome amphibian of all time. Others would proclaim him a puppet above the rest. His name and footprints are on a star at Grauman's Chinese Theater, a rare honor given only to the best in Hollywood. It's an even greater leap for an amphibian. You guessed it. I am here today to honor Kermit the Frog, a well-mannered, always positive, funny, frog who left the life of a quiet, peaceful swamp in the bayou to take on the world with his green philosophy.

To some Kermit is an icon of hope for a greener, cleaner world, and to others he is an inspiration towards acceptance and kindness to his fellow creatures on Earth. To ALL who have ever heard Kermit speak or sing, he is the voice of wisdom and encouragement when they just need a smile. Upon leaving the swamp for a career in Show Biz, Kermit landed his first television appearance in 1955 on the Sam and Friends Show. While making an appearance on The Tonight Show, he was officially named Kermit the Frog by Johnny Carson.

In his autobiography, *Before You Leap, A Frog's Eye View of Life's Greatest Lessons*, Kermit credits his best friend, Jim Henson, for his rise to success. Jim was a dreamer who believed anything was possible if you just dreamed hard enough. Kermit explains that Jim always had faith in him. What he believes about, music, people, and his views on life are the product of Jim Henson's dreams. Jim's creativity and constant work have shaped Kermit into the frog he is today. Kermit the Frog never is depressed, lonely or sad. He is always hopping with joy.

Even when the world first saw Kermit the Frog, he had a smile on his face that could warm even the coldest of hearts. Kermit embodies one characteristic that everyone needs. That is the ability to see the bright side of any situation. Life in the swamp is usually peaceful and dreamy for its residents, but if someone like Doc Hopper wants your "froggy" legs, it's a nightmare. Even then, Kermit has ways to enjoy life. He finds that music lifts his spirits, and he has fun spending time with his friends. Kermit is about as lovable as a frog can get, but only Miss Piggy thinks of him as an amorous amphibian.

Miss Piggy has tried everything to make Kermit go weak in the knees over her from batting her baby blue eyes to all-out attacking him. Kermit, being a frog of true acceptance, is patient with Miss Piggy, most of the time. In his autobiography, he offers one piece of advice on love, however. "If you love someone, set them free. Or at least give them a sick day every now and then." Kermit has the great ability to be understanding and to care for others. Some people see Kermit as an inspiration to end racism or at least as a role model on learning how to accept differences in others.

Kermit's song "It's Not Easy Bein' Green," clearly is a metaphor for how hard it is to be a person of color. As a frog in a human's world, he has had to struggle to prove his worth. Being an actor has allowed Kermit to rub shoulders with all types of characters. This has made him wiser than some and better able to understand and get along with others. Kermit states in his autobiography, "When you're constantly surrounded by such a varied group, you come to respect other points of view. You learn to live in harmony and appreciate differences."

That's an important life skill for everyone, especially those who work with pigs, bears, rats and various weirdos. " In his song, Rainbow Connection, Kermit tells us to be respectful of others and dream. This connection can bring all people to peace, " the lovers, the dreamers, and me. " Kermit has also been a huge advocate for making the world a greener place. In 2006, he decided to take a break from his Sesame Street career and look into being a spokes-frog. Kermit used all his talents to promote hybrid cars during the Super Bowl.

In his commercial, he looks at the car and exclaims that maybe it IS easy being green! This commercial is labeled as one of the best of the 2006 Super Bowl. Kermit also appeared in an ad promoting the National Wildlife Foundation, with the catch line, " Even you can make a difference. " Kermit has been the spokes-frog for a number of other events promoting a greener environment. His inspiring words have been the catalyst for many people to change their habits and lead a greener way of life. Kermit the Frog is one of the most inspiring " people" of our time.

His love for nature and his concern for friends should serve as an example to everyone. Most importantly, Kermit has taught millions of children and adults around the world the power of dreaming. He knows that dreams can make a difference in the world. In his own words, Kermit says, " I have a dream too. But it's about singing and dancing and making people happy. That's the kind of dream that gets better the more people you share it with. And I found a whole bunch of people who share the same dream, and that kind of makes us a family. " Words spoken by a true frog.