



**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY**

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Former Student of Governor Walz  
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Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Tim Walz is the kind of guy you can count on to push you out of a snowbank. I know this because Tim Walz has actually pushed me out of a snowbank.

I grew up next door to the Walzes in Mankato. Mr. Walz was also my geography teacher and my coach—not for high school football but for seventh grade basketball and track.

So, what was a high school football coach doing coaching seventh grade basketball and track? Well, there was a kid at the high school who couldn't afford to pay for lunch and he ran up a lot of debt. Tim and Gwen decided they'd help pay it off. They started calling around the district to see if there were any positions they could fill to make a little extra money. That's how he wound up coaching seventh graders.

Coach Walz got us excited about what we might achieve. He believed in us and helped us believe in each other. And his leadership stuck. That track team went on to win a state title, just like the football team. Speaking of which, come on out, Scarlets!

You know, all this got me thinking about the kinds of leaders we need. We want the people in charge to be genuine, compassionate, and trustworthy. The thing is, there are people in our neighborhoods who fit this description. The kind of people who display quiet leadership by helping kids pay for their lunches, bringing teams together to believe in each other, and when we're stuck in the snow, they push us out.

And we always wish people like that would run for office. Well, in my neighborhood, someone like that did run for office. And he's going to be a wonderful vice president.

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