By Nancy Whitaker

The words of a coward: ‘I give up’

How many times have we all felt like, and said, “I am just going to give up?” Believe me I have said it many times. Then there is the old cliché, “If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.” Those words are hard to remember when something bad happens and you just want to cover up your head and stay in bed.

Young and old alike, we experience a lot of bumps in life. For young teens it could be, “Gee, I just don’t fit in.” Or it could be a break-up of a relationship that you felt was “the real thing.”

As we progress in life, we face the tragedy of losing family members and acquaintances. While some fail at business, others fail at college.

With a bad economy and high unemployment, I am sure we all have days when we say, “I am just going to give up. There are no jobs out there and life is cruel.”

Then one of the great examples of a man who did not give up comes to mind. He could have given up many times, but he didn’t. He had that sense of obligation that is present in all of us to continue and follow a call of duty to “strive to be the best.”

This man was born into poverty and faced defeat many times. He lost his mother at a young age, kicked in the head by a horse and almost died, shot a wild turkey at age seven and felt so bad he never hunted again. He failed in business, got defeated for the legislature, failed the second time in business, his fiancee died, he had a nervous breakdown, ran for Congress and was defeated, tried again and was defeated again. He then tried running for the senate and lost. The next year he ran for vice president and lost. He ran for the senate again and was defeated.

He did not know the meaning of the words “give up.” He had the intense desire to learn, to succeed and to keep trying. This man was one of the best examples of persistence. Who was he? It was our 16th president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln.

Every one of us feel like giving up at one time or another. However, being the persistent, resilient people who are known as Americans, we will never give up. As a nation and as common people, there is a lot of things going on as we speak. To face the crises that we confront every day takes the attitude, persistence, knowledge and stamina which led Abe Lincoln to the White House.

Here are a few of Abraham Lincoln’s quotes which no doubt led to his success.

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.”

“Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle.”

“Success is going from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm.”

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The opinions stated are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect that of the newspaper.