

My Dear Son,

I want you to know how proud I am of you because you strive to always do your best, in school, at home and with your teammates. I love you because you learn the rules, understand the goals and strive for accomplishment with honor and integrity.

I share your personal drive for success. You have the intellect, initiative and motor skills to succeed at whatever you attempt. Your highly calibrated moral compass will serve you well in your life's endeavors.

I encourage you to continue to do well in school. I see you continually striving to do your best even when the job at hand is not your favorite thing to do. You have a unique ability to understand academic and athletic requirements and make a great effort to continually motivate yourself to accomplish required tasks with superior results.

Sometimes life can move forward without cognizant understanding of our surroundings. I encourage you to develop an awareness of the bigger picture and to take stock of the broader surroundings so that you are ready for life's great opportunities as they become available. Events won't always happen randomly, sometimes you have to position yourself to take advantage of prospects as they develop. I encourage you to do your best when facing immediate tasks and realize that everyone around you, above and below grade will form opinions of your character and demeanor as well as your ability to accomplish the task at hand without complaint and with grace.

Be assured that I am rooting for you. I will always be there to support you and your brother, giving the best advice I can to help lighten the load for you and to offer guidance based upon years of experience. If I can't be there, you will know that in spirit I am with you and that Mom and I have given you the tools to succeed.

Mom and I are here to help you reason and evaluate options as you grow into your legacy. Your task is to continue the integrity of our family and to employ your fine education to accomplish a higher level of honor to your loved ones and to your country. We are a family who has proudly served. Both of your Grandfathers, many Great Uncles and I have felt the sense of duty that defines us as men. I'm sure you will proudly do the same.

Mom and I have dreams for you, but ultimately you must choose your path. Do not choose it alone. Choose your path with support of those around you whom you trust to offer the best advice. Learn what your options are and have a clear understanding of all the possibilities and the ultimate greatness that await you.

Most of all, know that I will always encourage and support you to be your best!  
With love,