

This letter represents Alderson's high school years and it can easily be related to a lot of teenage boys today. The letter with the dog tag shows how quickly he had to grow up and mature in such a short amount of time. As Alderson joined the military, he turned in his letter, along with his childhood, for a dog tag.

When McKayla Boehm began her project, she looked at different soldiers' names to find the right person to research. She noticed one of the killed-in-action had the same last name as hers, and she started to look into the soldier's family tree and her own family tree. McKayla found that Army SGT Richard Boehm was a cousin to her grandfather. McKayla decided to draw a family tree to show how she was related to Sergeant Boehm. This connection made the project that much more meaningful to McKayla. She had no idea she was related to a soldier who was killed in action in Vietnam.

McKayla added some information about Richard by his name on her family tree and wrote a note to him, thanking him for his service and expressing her desire that he were still with us so she could have gotten to know him. This project also emphasized for McKayla the importance of appreciating family and friends because you never know when the people who are closest to you may be taken away.

Nicole Holmgren, Tiffani Friesz, Brandi Bieber, and Georgia Marion looked for Gerald "Gerry" Klein's family members and spoke on the phone with Gerry's brother Bob.

Bob told the students about Gerry's life growing up in rural North Dakota, about being the oldest of five kids and working on the family farm. In fact, Bob explained to the girls that Gerry made the farm his priority, choosing to spend all of his free time there.

The four students created a farm complete with grass, tractors, rocks, and farm animals to represent the place where Gerry felt happiest—on the farm where he planned to return and make his life with his fiancee after serving in the Army.

Jaycee Walter and Kambri Schaner decorated a fishing hat to commemorate Thomas Welker, a staff sergeant who served in Vietnam in the Army.

The students learned that prior to being drafted, Thomas enjoyed spending his free time fishing with his young family. On the fishing hat, Jaycee and Kambri wrote Thomas' name and dates of birth and death. On eight fishing lures they hung from the hat, they wrote the names of Thomas' family members and the awards he received during his service to our country.

Bailee McEvers, Teagan McIntyre, Shandi Taix and Maisie Patzner filled a fishing tackle box with items that were important to Michael Meyhoff who served in the Army during the Vietnam war.

These four students communicated with Michael's family, who described Michael's interest in baseball, rock collecting, hunting, and fishing. The stu-

dents filled the tackle box with a baseball, rocks, shotgun shells, and fishing lures to represent his hobbies. They also decorated the box with pictures of Michael and the baseball field in Center, ND, that is named after him.

Finally, the final photo I will show you today is of a young man who was impacted in a very meaningful way in his research. Zach Bohlin is a talented student who carved a piece of wood into the shape of North Dakota. Zach added a peace sign, the soldier's name, and then expressed his own feelings about the sacrifice made by the Vietnam soldier he researched.

I would like to share the beautiful sentiment expressed by Zach through his project at Bismarck High School.

The empty chair,

The absence of one voice in the air.

Emotions take over with fear.

You're all I can't hear.

Damn the opinions of the world,

It's only filled with selfish words.

Scream and never be heard,

Keep quiet, carry on Sir.

Bring with you your heartfelt rhymes,

From the uncharted waters of your mind.

Take your wounded skin and fly.

It takes true love to sacrifice your life.

This project has meant so much to the families of the soldiers who have been researched. This project has meant so much to these young students who are connected in a way where, without these three great teachers, they would never have been connected to those who were killed in action in Vietnam. They would never have appreciated the sacrifice, and, in many ways, these soldiers would never be remembered.

I can't say how proud I am, as their Senator, of the wonderful students of Bismarck High School and the great teachers who have taken on this project. It has meant so much to me, it has meant so much to the families, and I think it has really meant so much to so many of the Vietnam veterans of my State who are still with us, who see this period of commemoration—as dictated by the President—as an important time to heal the wounds of Vietnam.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

COMMENDING SENATOR GRAHAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I understand that the majority leader is on his way here to close out the Senate very shortly. I want to take 1 minute to recognize a significant milestone in the life of one of our colleagues here on the floor. That colleague is our friend Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, and that milestone is his retirement from the U.S. Air Force and Reserve, which he has served for more than 30 years. I think that 30 years of service—particularly 30 years of service overlapping with the responsibilities of being a U.S. Senator—is something that is worth a kind word.

The quality of Senator GRAHAM's service was impeccable. He has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service. He has been recognized for his

loyalty to the Air Force by being appointed to the U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors. Clearly, his contribution to the U.S. Air Force has been real. But I think Senator GRAHAM would also be the first one to say that he believes the U.S. Air Force made more of a contribution to him than he did to the U.S. Air Force. I think that is one of the reasons he was such a good U.S. Air Force and Reserve officer, and it is also one of the reasons that we have such affection for him here in the Senate.

I have to say that I disagree with Senator GRAHAM about a great number of things. He is a very, very conservative Member of the Senate. But we get to know one another in this body. I like Senator GRAHAM. I respect Senator GRAHAM, and I am pleased to come to the floor today to commend Senator GRAHAM for what must be a somewhat emotional milestone as he steps down from the uniform that he has now worn for more than 30 years for our country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN G. HEYBURN II

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on Friday, May 8, I had the honor of paying tribute to a dear friend, John Heyburn, who passed away on April 29 after a long illness.

I ask unanimous consent that the remarks I gave during the celebration of his life at St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church in Harrods Creek, KY, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[May 8, 2015]

LEADER McCONNELL'S EULOGY OF JOHN HEYBURN

We lost John just a few days ago, but it's been a long goodbye.

And so Martha, as we celebrate John this morning, we honor you too.

Because through it all, you were his most faithful companion, his fiercest advocate, and a cherished lifeline to those of us who loved him dearly.

And we're grateful.

Scripture tells us that heaven is a city. And I like to think that even in life John

would have appreciated the comparison. He loved this city and all that it meant to him—the connection it gave him to family and the father he so admired—the opportunity it gave him to help so many others over the years as a mentor, a friend, a neighbor, and as a wise and patient jurist.

John just loved being with people—and we loved being with him. He was a man who was full of life and vigor and a boundless curiosity about the world around him and the people who filled it.

Above all, though, he was good.

They say that politics is a contact sport, which is true. I confess I enjoy it. But it's also true that politics carries temptations for all us who are involved in it. Most of us struggle with those temptations, and some occasionally cross the line. Not John.

John Heyburn had as much integrity as anyone I have ever known. As a young man, he dreamed of being a politician. But what he really wanted, I think, was to play a part in shaping events—to leave a mark on his country, his city, his community . . . to live not just for himself but for others.

Like so many other great men, he found his heart's ambition in an unexpected place: in the courtroom he came to love, in his marriage with Martha, and in the sons he cherished. And in these last few years, he showed his greatness in another unexpected way. It was in his heroic struggle against a terrible illness that he inspired us most with his optimism and his athlete's spirit. He let us accompany him on the journey, and we're the better for it.

To borrow the words of another U.S. Senator, John taught us how to live and he taught us how to die.

We will miss his hearty laugh, his kind eyes, his thoughtful presence. But as we say our final goodbye to this good man, we are comforted by the thought that he is now in the heavenly city, where we are told that every tear will be wiped away, full of vigor and new life.

And we are consoled to think that John Heyburn has finally heard those words he longed to hear: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter your master's joy."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING GEORGE HALEY

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I recently paid tribute to George Haley, a distinguished Tennessean and distinguished American who died at the age of 89 on May 13.

I ask unanimous consent that the article "George Haley, the Giant Who Never Quit," by Bankole Thompson, published in the Michigan Chronicle and a copy of a resolution passed by the Kansas Senate honoring George Haley be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Michigan Chronicle, May 18, 2015]

GEORGE HALEY, THE GIANT WHO NEVER QUIT

(By Bankole Thompson)

Malcolm X, in "The Autobiography of Malcolm X: As Told to Alex Haley," described by Time magazine as one of the 10 best non-fiction books of the century, told Alex Haley to remind his younger brother, George Haley, not to forget that it was because of Malcolm and others raising hell in the streets as fighters for racial democracy that George was able to make it in Kansas where he became the first Black state senator in 1964.

Eight years ago in the basement of his Silver Spring home in Maryland, I asked George what he thought of Malcolm's remarks about him in that seminal book. He looked at me and laughed and called it "a rather interesting distinction." I smiled back and we continued looking over materials he wanted to share with me including letters Alex wrote to him as he traveled around the country and the world. From the correspondences I deduced that he was Alex's secret weapon.

Last week, George Haley, the man known to many as "Ambassador Haley" died May 13 at his home at the age of 89 following an illness. No man has had a bigger impact on my life growing up than George Haley. He was an accomplished lawyer, a United States Ambassador, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, a son of the South, a family man, a Morehouse man, a thinker of the Black experience and a person who did not allow Jim Crow to subdue him when he became the second Black to earn a law degree at the University of Arkansas. As he would explain later, he was living in a basement and would go upstairs to take his classes. He would go on to serve six U.S. presidents.

I met George when I was a teenager looking to explore the possibilities of the world and how to better myself living in a fatherless home. Being raised by a grandmother who was doing her best, I had the good fortune one day of meeting Ambassador Haley, who instantly took interest in me. He treasured my grandmother and congratulated her on many occasions for her efforts in raising a Black boy. Not knowing what the future would hold for me as a teenager because I did not have the typical structure of parental support, George entered my life, enamored by my germinating skills as a budding writer. As a mentor, he told me the world was my oyster and shared stories of his life with me.

One day, during one of my regular visits to his office, he started asking pointed questions about the unexplained absence of my dad. I told him the stories my grandmother shared with me about my father not being at home. He looked at me closely, tense and upset. He shook his head and told me never to feel bad about that because "the man upstairs" was in control. He was not an absent father. He was a present father who loved and always talked about his kids.

No doubt, having someone of his stature say that to a lad who was at a crucial stage in life was reassuring. Many young men today, especially Black boys, need the confidence and support of accomplished men who have crossed every Rubicon with grace and dignity, to tell them that their world is not going to fall apart and support them in ensuring that they too can be meaningfully and productively engaged and become change makers.

We developed a father-son relationship. He told me about Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, the former president of Morehouse College and the man who mentored him and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others. His favorite phrase from Dr. Mays that he left me with was, "The man who out thinks you, rules you."

He talked about the need for critical thinkers in the Black community, and said we owed it to ourselves to provide an atmosphere that would illuminate the brilliance of Black boys and allow them to grow into manhood and find a sense of achievement.

He talked about the responsibilities of writers having the ability and power to narrate and shape history. Black writers in particular, he believed, should never fail to articulate the Black experience and tell stories that often could otherwise go missing. He referenced many times the book "Roots," written by Alex and how it impacted the

world. I still kept a copy of "Roots" in my study which he autographed for me as a birthday gift. We discussed on numerous times the importance of preserving a bibliography of Black writers of the last century.

As a Morehouse graduate of the class of 1949, the same time Dr. King was at Morehouse, he believed in the philosophy of Dr. Mays and what he did in training and preparing generations of Black men like him and others at Morehouse who would go on to change the world and better their communities.

George Haley was a first-rate gentleman of the era before and after Jim Crow. In 1963, Alex Haley wrote in Readers Digest, "George Haley: The Man Who Wouldn't Quit," an article that chronicled the persistent racial humiliation he underwent at the University of Arkansas.

"The first day of school, he went quickly to his basement room, put his sandwich on the table, and headed upstairs for class. He found himself moving through wave upon wave of White faces that all mirrored the same emotions—shock, disbelief, then choking, inarticulate rage. The lecture room was buzzing with conversation, but as he stepped through the door there was silence. He looked for his seat. It was on the side between the other students and the instructor. When the lecture began, he tried desperately to concentrate on what the professor was saying, but the hate in that room seeped into his conscience and obliterated thought. On the second day, he was greeted with open taunts and threats: "You, nigger, what are you doing here?" "Hey, nigger, go back to Africa." He tried not to hear, to walk with an even pace, with dignity." Alex wrote about George in a piece that was a classic exhibit of the Jim Crow era.

When Dr. King appeared at Kansas State University (KSU) in January of 1968, George came with him. Decades later, the university would invite him to return in 2011 to hear the rediscovered recordings of King's remarks. What was also discovered was another piece of history: After King's assassination, a handwritten note with George's name on it was found in his coat pocket.

In 2010, during one of his shuttle visits to Michigan, he asked me to meet him for lunch at the Westin Hotel in Southfield. There I asked him about the note found in King's jacket. He said he was happy the new information would allow the university to do more around race and justice and went on to explain how it happened.

King scribbled down names of individuals, including George, that he needed to recognize before speaking at KSU. George and three other university officials, including then KSU President McCain, had chartered a plane to pick King up in Manhattan, Kansas so he could come speak at the university.

George Haley believed in education and his life was shaped by seminal events. When he came out of law school, he joined the law firm of Stevens Jackson in Kansas, which provided work in the Brown v. Board of Education case in Topeka.

I treasured his mentorship. I cherished the father figure he was to me. I was honored to have known and spent a significant amount of time with him. I accompanied him to events he wanted me to be at.

For instance, when his close friend Simeon Booker, whose groundbreaking coverage of the Emmett Till murder trial made him one of the most iconic Black journalists of all time, celebrated his 50 years as Washington Bureau chief for Jet magazine, George asked me to accompany him to the celebration. The event was a Who's Who of the Black writers world.

His lasting impact on me would never wane with passage of time.