

McIntosh, Alabama  
May 30th

Dearest Papa:

Ever since that day so long ago in 1945 when you put your arm around me in affection, and took me to the train in Washington when Dick and I had just gotten married, I've loved you and been proud of you. You have been kind, sweet, and generous to me....and to everybody. But that's not why I've loved you.

Some 8 or 10 years ago, I recognized in your inherent being, something truly different and apart from other people. Not your wonderful laughter, flamboyant speech or distinguished appearance....but something intangible....disparate from public acclaim, money or anything mundane. I realized you truly were seeking to do your FATHER'S business.

Since that time, I've never known you to intentionally degrade or villify another person. I've never known you to hold a grudge for the contradictions in a person's nature which inclined them to want to hurt you. I've never known any person who could carry suffering like a badge of honor. You did. I've never known any person who truly lived and thought "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." You do.

I've never known a person of whom I have thought, "Here is a man, called of God, to set the example of the strong to the weak". You are such a man. Life is so full of sorrow...and joy....disappointment and pain. Most of us are so weak. Without a captain to follow, we are lost on the black ocean of defeat. BUT, YOU! You are different.

Your sorrows and joys have all been worn with the courage of HIM who knew sorrow and defeat before you. So is it really defeat! No, dear, dear Papa...You have won the greatest victory man ever won....that of finding the invisible road of doing what is right and honorable...and the most important thing about this is.....you did it alone and by yourself....this in itself far surpasses any accolade you may receive....ever.... for there will be many more.....for a man such as you would never go unnoticed.

And in your Congressional defeat....your attitude will make many weak men stronger for having observed victory in yourself.

I am more proud of you today than I was two weeks ago.... because I know your forgiving heart will make tough men ashamed, hard hearts softer and proud friends, more proud.

Now you can be free of all the leeches who wanted so much without giving one thing. You can spread your wonderful sunshine without shackles anymore...so do it and never look back. You have too many guardian angels looking after you... so I know life will now in some measure repay you for all the great and wonderful things you have done.

Just feel sorry for the little people, with little hearts and minds who will wander erratically through life and never know any good thoughts or good rewards.

I love you,

Beppie Boykin