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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

P. O. Box 1101
Mobile, Alabama

September 24, 1960

Copy to Nate

Gen. and Mrs. Nathan Twining
Quarters 8
Fort Myer, Virginia

My dear Nate and Maude:

We have just received an invitation from the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to be with them at a review and reception in honor of our own beloved General Nathan Twining on the 30th of September. Well, we won't be able to be there in person, but we'll be there in spirit.

I am going to talk to Homer Gruanther today, and I will send my invitation to Charlotte Boykin and ask her to come with him, because I'd like for her to see and write a report about this great honor that is coming to you and yours. She's quite a writer and she, like all of the Boykins, loves Nathan Twining.

It's kind of sad, though, to me to think of your retiring. Of course, you're not going to retire. I had your good letter and, lo and behold, our beloved friend, Col. Albert Ernest, Vice President of the St. Regis Paper Company, is stricken and terrible, Nate, with a cancer. He's called me every morning before daybreak and talks furiously about the new plant and to go ahead and so forth, and so on. I doubt that we'll ever get it if anything happens to him. I am also told that there's no cure for him. However, the Ochsner Clinic says there is a cure for this cancer. There's quite a piece in the Reader's Digest, and I think everybody ought to read it. It's the August issue, 1960. Get it and read it; it's worthwhile. The Ochsner Clinic thinks they're going to hit a cure any minute. Of course, we all prayed. If Albert gets enough strength, they are going to send him there. They have made more progress, so they tell me, than anybody else on earth. That clinic, as you know, is in New Orleans and only 25 minutes from us by air.

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I've been wanting to go and see Albert every day, but he says for me to wait until he gets his strength back. They had to put him in an oxygen tent night before last, and he said, "Well, it looked like the old ticker was going to make me cash in my chips, but here I am, better." They won't even let him drink coffee, so you know the shape he's in. I hate to give you this report, but I know how much he loves and respects you and your wonderful, beautiful, sweet wife and when he knows your boys, your man, as I do, he will love them, too.

So we'll be thinking about you and pulling and praying that God will give you strength to be here a long, long time with us.

I went up to Dayton and had a talk with Sam Anderson and good old "Bozo." How we talked about you and Maude. I had dinner at their house. They were sweet, wonderful people, and of course, they will be there with you at this review. If you needed them, all of the Boykins would be there, but that won't do you much good. What I want to do is to see and be with you all when the whole wide world is not there. I have invited Sam Anderson and his wife and "Bozo" McKee and his wife to come down and stay at the Admiral Semmes or the Grand Hotel when we have the Nathan Twining Hunt at McIntosh. Charlie Halleck, as you will remember, brought his wife down before, and Ollie can take good care of them, along with Frances and all of the rest of the Boykins and your many friends here and they can come up and have dinner with us at the clubhouse and even go hunting if they want to. I think the President is coming. I believe his wonderful brother, who is director of the St. Regis, Edgar Eisenhower, will come. He said he wanted to come. I gave him a party and you will remember that was the day you had to go to The White House and couldn't make it. We had about 54 and some fabulous pictures. I had a letter from Homer about it. I'll try and send you a copy of that.

Homer slipped off to Europe with that wonderful Congressman Mendell Rivers who loves you one-tenth as much as I do. He would love you just as much, but he doesn't know how yet. He's still a young thing, but as he grows up, he will. Anyway, I see where his old Senator Jimmy Byrnes has gone Republican again. Well, Mendell Rivers is the only Democratic Congressman that I know of that made speeches for Ike and carried his district in that deep, low country in South Carolina for Ike by a majority of three to one. I sometimes wonder if the President knows about it. I had a very wonderful letter from him yesterday.

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Anyway, I do hope he can come, but we had rather have you than the President of the United States or anybody else on earth. You've been such a good friend down through the years, and you're just getting ready to live, now. Maybe now, you can do some of the things that you've always thought you wanted to do or maybe you really do want them to do; I know not, but I'm going to get you to tell me.

I don't believe I'm ever going to retire. Of course, I haven't been in the Congress but about a quarter of a century or a little more, but that great man, Carl Vinson, one of God's Noblemen, and Congressmen Mendell Rivers and I decided, after we've been there a few more years, 18 or 20 more, we might make a career of being a Congressman.

Well, you've made a career of being a General. Lord knows, I wish everybody knew about you like Eddie Rickenbacker and how you suffered the long hours on that raft, but God Almighty knew we needed you, and, Nate, we need you worse than ever now. I wish you could answer this he-devil from Russia in your own terms. I wish everybody could have heard the speech you made in the old hunting lodge at McIntosh, Alabama, on the Tombigbee River and Southern Railroad. Well, you'll have a chance to do that and everything else now, and there's so much for you to do and there's so much for the President to do. I think we should just yoke you two famous, fabulous people up and send you all over this earth to help keep things straight.

I'll say one thing for Ike Eisenhower - he's kept peace in this land and saved our young men and he's done a great job. He'll soon be going. He'll go right after you go, Nate, so maybe you can help have things straightened out for him by the time he follows you when he retires at just a little later date.

If there was ever a man on this earth that has served his entire nation and the world and all mankind and given his best and had the best there was in him of any man I've ever known, it has been our own General Nathan Farragut Twining, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States of America. Well, we need men, and there's a poem - I don't know whether you remember it or not, but I remember some of it, and it starts out like this: "God give us men . . ." Well, you'll be there when I give the party to get the two parties back together, and I had it before when I gave a great party for Speaker Rayburn. We had 900 guests, 32 bartenders, and 40 waiters.

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We'll get the Democrats and Republicans and all of our people back together so they can concentrate on Khrushchev and that bearded devil that's roaming the earth and trying to destroy it. You are one of the people that can help save it as much as any man I know.

I hope I sent you a copy of my telegram to the President just before he spoke. Anyway, I'm sure I did.

Collin, Frances, Alice, Bob, Jack and Dick all join me and so do all of the twelve grandchildren and Austin. They at The First National Bank and all our loved ones here in Mobile that think so much of you send you their best love and respect, not only to you, but to Maude and your entire family and your host of friends all over the earth. Surely, I know of no one that has done more than our own General Nathan Twining, and I know he couldn't have done without the help of his great and wonderful wife, Maude Twining and the two fine sons and the beautiful, wonderful little daughter. Think of it; and they were born in Alabama, the place where you just step from when you start to go to heaven. Right straight from down in the Mobile Bay country, on up there. Tell Maude to get ready. We'll have a place down here for her.

May God bless and help keep you and yours, now and forever.

Devotedly, your old friends

THE ALBERT ERBELETS and
THE FRANK W. BOYKINS
Member of Congress

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