

October 11, 1942

Timothy,

You are a descendent of men who have all answered the call to serve their country. We named you after your great grandfather who fought and lived through several wars without any injuries. Each time, he left his family with the promise that he would return. For some wars, it took years and others were over in a few short months before he appeared back on the front step unharmed and happy to be home. He was over ninety years old when he fought his last war. Our country relied on his experiences to move supplies to the fronts for the war that was the one to end all wars.

The name Timothy means 'honoring God' and I believe that it is correct. Your great grandfather was always on the right side of history with a force fighting for a moral reason. God honored him for his sacrifices by giving him one hundred years of life. We named you Timothy to honor your great grandfather and in the hope that one day you would follow in his footsteps by becoming a morally responsible adult.

Your grandfather answered the call to save our country from itself. He never spoke of his experiences and I never understood why until I answered the call to fight in the war to end all wars. I hate to watch you leave to join the service, but I am also aware that every man struggles with the decision to serve. Fathers don't want to see their boys grow up and sons want to prove to themselves that they are adults.

Watching you grow up to become the man that you are today is one of my proudest accomplishments. You can thank your mom for that. I sure do. She raised you right. As you fight, remember her.

I'm going to miss you my boy. While you may feel like it, your youth does not make you bullet proof. Your great grandfather used to say that he made it through all the wars because he used his head. Valor comes to those who remain smart and don't take unnecessary risks. You can't serve your country from a hospital bed or worse, from six feet underground.

The flag in this package was given to your great grandfather by his mother who made it with pieces of fabric from their family home. The stars are from his childhood bedsheets. The blue is from his mother's

favorite Sunday dress. The red comes from the shirts and sleeves of your great uncles' clothes they wore to church. And the white stripes come from your great great grandfather's work shirts. She made it for him to fly on the field of battle. The flag was to remind him of the country he served as well as the family who supported him.

Carry this flag with you. Keep it safely with you in battle and raise it high in victory. By protecting it in battle, you will also protect yourself. You'll note that there are no holes in it because it's not bullet proof. Remember that. You are twenty years old and may feel bullet proof, but just like this flag, your body will tear easily if not cared for in battle.

Be safe my son.

All my love,

*Dad*