

Precious Bear,

It is very difficult to believe that our "Baby Bear" is about to close a chapter in life, not only for himself, but for the entire family. Camden Military has been a blessing to the entire family.

Bear, you started off as the "cherry" on top of the sundae. You have become known as the "Bear" and will always be our "little Bear". You have been strong and fearless. No fear of needles, moguls on the ski slopes or walls high to climb. You have always had a quiet, loving spirit. You have had an unquenchable thirst for a good novel, or movie. You have always had an inquisitive mind in discovering HOW things work. Engineering maybe? Remember the "DUH"? You are a man of few words, but you never miss a thing.

It seems like only yesterday that you were making your grand announcement that you wanted to follow your dad to Camden. That was nine years ago. Since then, we both learned a lot while we homeschooled 5th and 6th grades. I hope you have some fond memories of our time together. I will always cherish them. You have advanced from WEBELO scout to Eagle Scout, OA and Assistant Scout Master with Troop 38. I hope you use the many skills you have learned, but more than anything, cherish the character traits of a scout. You have made friends from all over the world. Remember, it's communication, love and service that grow and maintain relationships throughout your life. You have accepted the challenges of leadership roles and succeeded. You have applied your time and efforts in your academics and stayed on the top of your class. You flew an airplane before you even drove a car. You raised a very big puppy into our "niche". You have chosen to dance and not to sit in the corner. You are a joy and a delight. We are very proud of what you are.

Life has not been without its difficulties. You endured 100's of needles and came out on top. You have learned what it means to be tempted and have had the self-control and decisiveness to resist. You have been content to be alone and yet to be happy with others. You have an independent spirit and the power to be your own man.

As a family, we have shared many adventures and travels. We have loved, played, worked, prayed, laughed and cried together. We have cooked, danced, skied, hiked, camped, swam, snorkeled, kayaked, rafted, done martial arts and gardened together. We have many cherished memories. And more to come.....

As this chapter at CMA ends, remember what you have learned and experienced. Remember who you are and whose you are. Remember, you cannot out-sin God's grace. His love is unconditional and limitless. God's word contains all of the wisdom and direction you will ever need. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is always available! Jesus has already done it all for you. Live like you believe it! Find joy and laughter every day! Dream BIG! Be quick to forgive, not quick to judge. Keep your priorities in line. Honor God, and He will honor you. Pray for everything in prayer. Don't compromise on the non-negotiable. God is in the details and knows your heart's desires. Be a good steward of all you have been blessed. Maintain balance in all you do. Choose Godly friends who will hold you accountable. Make wise choices. God is interested in your character, not in your comfort.

Psalm 20:4 May he give you the desire of your heart and make all of your plans succeed.

Proverbs 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come to pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and will bring you back from captivity.

God blessed us with you from the beginning. Thank you for the joy and for the laughter. Be a blessing to all you meet! Soar like an Eagle! Allow God to be the weight that lifts your wings to unknown heights and adventures.

All Our Love,
Mom and Dad