



MATTHEW MURDAUGH

Dear Matthew,

For some time now I have dreaded the day that I would have to write this letter. Although we are very proud of you, it is so hard to believe that you are going to be leaving us to go away to college. It seems like just yesterday you were playing tee-ball. Now here you are completing your senior year. Matthew you have brought so much joy into our lives and we are proud of the young man you have become. Your witiness, carefree spirit, and loving heart have given us many fond memories that we will always cherish. As you complete one of the most important milestones in life remember your values, for they will lead to success. Always strive for the best. Be courageous through tough times not always taking the path less traveled because it seems less challenging. Set your goals high and pursue your dreams. Remember the importance of family and friends. Remember that YOUR family loves you, supports you, and wishes you the best that life has to offer. Most importantly remember to keep God in your heart.
With all my love,
Mom

Matt,

It seems like only yesterday that I stood at the bottom rung of the ladder and waited for you to climb safely into the deer stand. My arms braced tightly against ladder, I waited worried that you might misstep and come tumbling down. You were only seven then. Ten years and three brothers later, you're now seventeen and about to graduate from high school. I can honestly say that you have been a great role model for your younger brothers. One of the greatest joys of my life has been watching you grow into a young man. We have shared so many memories together including all the times I have coached you, the many hunting trips with you and your friends, the Carolina football games, the last minute science projects and the many sleep overs at the landing. I still can't figure out why you love that old white truck so much, but I will never forget the night we went to look at it and you would not let me leave Charleston without it. I hope you will remember these things as you move on with whatever life has in store for you: People are always more important than money. Be true to yourself. Don't lose your identity and become just another face in the crowd. Strive for success but do not fear failure. Always give something back to your community. Be respectful to others. Laugh as much as possible. Pray when you want to not just when you have to. Although you may not believe me now, graduation night will be an emotional night as you parade down the aisle at CPA one last time. Remember the words of Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
Love,
Dad

Matt,

I will always remember the time you drove the four-wheeler into the fence and cut my eye. We had to walk back to Nana & Papa's and you carried me. Boy was I scared. So proud and sad to see you go off to college. Good Luck! - Jesse

Matt,

I will miss you and I'll never forget all the times you've beat me up. - Andrew

Matt,

It's hard to believe you are graduating. Who am I going to fight with now? Guess I'll have to take your place and become the big brother who beats up on everyone. I enjoyed watching you play your last year of football. Guess I'll have to take over for you there too. Being on the same team with you was a fun experience. I enjoyed all the laughs we have shared over the years. I'll miss having a chauffeur to take me everywhere, and the times we went hunting together. I hope you'll find time to come back and duck hunt with us. Maybe when you earn your degree you'll be able to repay all the money you owe me. It won't be the same around the house without hearing you yell, "Mom, what about GOB?" Good Luck! I'll miss you! - Brian (GOB)

