

U. S. NAVAL RESERVE AVIATION BASE

FAIRFAX AIRPORT  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

27 August 1942

Dear Phog:

Your letter of August 15th received. I have been out of town for the most part of the past two weeks so am somewhat delayed in answering.

I appreciate your alleged interest in Charlie Black and his well being, and feel confident that you will make an effort to give him counsel and guidance concerning military matters when he comes into your office to make such inquiries. This is exactly what I tried to do for the boy when he and his father came into my office the first week of this month, unsolicited, and wanted information concerning the U. S. Naval Reserves.

Although I have known Charlie by reputation for some time, I had never had the pleasure of talking to him personally until he walked into my office.

As a Naval Officer in charge of athletics at this base, I was delighted to think that this young man was interested in serving his country and at the same time becoming a member of our basketball team which is being organized in the interest of physical fitness, and to aid in building base moral and spirit. It was my patriotic duty to converse with Charlie and his father openly and without hesitation. In time of war every able bodied boy in America whose heart is strong is a potential defender of his country. Every day college coaches are loosing boys to the armed forces and are patriotic enough to put aside their own selfish desires for a strong team in order to aid the war effort. Charlie made it apparent that he was interested in information concerning the Naval Reserves and his father endorsed it.

Should this boy decide to enlist he would be welcomed with open arms, as are hundreds of young men every day. Should he desire to join the Army Air Corps, which may allow him to return to school, he has my benedictions and best wishes.

The average boy with a mind of his own goes to an educator when he is seeking knowledge in the school of higher learning. When a man is interested in buying a horse he goes to a horse trader. Charlie's father served in the Naval forces of his country during the last war. It is naturaly to presume that he first counseled with his father before deciding to come to see me concerning the Navy.