

Boston, Mass.  
7 March 1943.

Dear "Doc":

Just a line today to congratulate you on your recent honor as being selected as the "No. 1" coach; it is an honor well-deserved by you. I, also, wish to congratulate you on the splendid record of your 1943 N.U. basketball team -- I have watched with considerable interest the record of the team even though I have been several weeks behind in receiving the news. Your contribution has not been confined to the development of the immediate members of your teams; to the select few, it was a high privilege, but to those of us less fortunate we admire, respect, and may well profit from your outstanding example of clean, hard, and, above all, fair sportsmanship.

A word about myself in closing. I was transferred very unexpectedly on January 19 from Miami to the Supply Corps School here at Harvard. The supply and disbursing course involves between four or five months study; I plan to leave the latter part of May. My age, rank, and classification make the future assignment unpredictable; most of the boys are around 22 to 25 and are ensigns. I imagine the Bureau has in mind some special billet or else I would not have been sent here. The year spent in Cost Inspection work was very valuable, but I was happy to leave the given assignment. I enjoy associating with these young boys and experiencing their trials, hardships, disappointments, and uncertainties; the experience will give me a great deal of personal satisfaction even though the "going" has been and will be rough during the next two months or so -- at least I will have experienced many of the personal sacrifices of war which so many of my friends have endured. Whatever and wherever may be my future billet I will perform the duties to the best of my ability.

In closing, I wish to thank you for your past interest and favors; I, indeed, consider it a privilege to have known and to have been associated with you -- a renewal and extension of this friendship is my sincere wish -- may it be in the near future I remain,  
Sincerely,  
"Bill" Shannon.