

Dear Dad, and I mean that...my *dear dear* Dad,

I'm so glad we got a chance to really see each other at the end of January and I was able to say face-to-face what I really want to say at this time, your journey's new beginning: "I love you. You did a great job as a dad. You and I are clear and clean and nothing is between us. You have been so very faithful to God. You have been a fantastic grandfather to my kids. And I love you." And I'm glad we got to hug each other.



And there at Windsor Park at the grill we got to recall the many things that you and I did together, including so many places like the Boundary Waters, Ireland and Scotland and Iona, England, Germany, Florida so many times, New England a bunch, and of course Washington DC and then the many times in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. You raised me in the Valley, and to there I returned.

These are not the only memories of course. I have too many things than I can list here, but Dad you taught me a lot, deeper than I know. But I learned from you about loving your own children, I learned from you about grace, I learned from you what a good father does, I learned from you about working hard to provide for your family, I learned from you fidelity to a man's wife. I learned from you about loving people who didn't feel loved, and I learned about being willing to keep growing all the way to heaven. As I write this, I'm listening to the hymn "O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus". I learned that from you, and a lot of other hymns too. One way or the other, you really did show me Jesus.

Dad, you did a really good job. I want to say it again as long as you can hear it. Dad, you did a really good job. At your funeral I will share that you deeply loved God as best you could and you deeply loved us kids as best you could, and it was enough. It was more than enough. It was a grand success. Dad, your life is a grand success. I'm proud of you.

It gives me great joy now to think of you reunited with Mom, and you two will love each perfectly, better than was ever possible on earth. You will be so happy together. And you will meet face to face the God that you have so served since you were a young man. You will be greatly rewarded, and that gives me great joy too. Dad, you will be so happy and so blessed. Take courage. You will hear those words for yourself— "Charles William Haley, *'Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master.'*"

Through me and Taylor and Beth and Ruth, and your grandkids and great-grandkids, you and Mom will continue to live and leave a great legacy. For that I'm very grateful to you, and you should know that and smile and be proud. And we will come and join you in time, and there rejoice and be glad together.

So, Dad, just hear this: "I love you, and you did a great job." And I know you love me too and I will treasure that. Rest, Dad, I'll see you in the morning.

I love you, Dad, and thank you—your son Bill