

Life's a journey

~~September~~ 25, 2021
October

Hello Jimothy,

Thank you for writing again. It is a shame these transmissions come so far apart, but I imagine delaying our mail keeps us on the back foot as to speak. I've decided to make use of the lovely parchment you've included, now it has touched both our hands and returned to you. Does it smell like jail? Sulfur? Oh thank you for entertaining that hell joke! Fair trial, eh? Well, I'll have you know I am filing a change of venue motion, I do not find it likely that an impartial jury could be found here in DC after the fence going up and the media treating this matter as it has. Thank you for including the verse from Isaiah and the CW scout oath of your childhood. I never did become a scout, but I have a great love for all things outdoors and self improving. There is a Code of Conduct that one of the veterans here handed off to me. It lists 6 bullet points of behavior expected of a service member and the last 3 of the 6 deal with conduct expected of an American POW. This code has helped me remain resolute here in a place that affords so much tactical advantage to my prosecution. Jim, I'd like to list these for you as you shared something important to you that has guided you, so have these guided me during this time of uncertainty.

IV If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

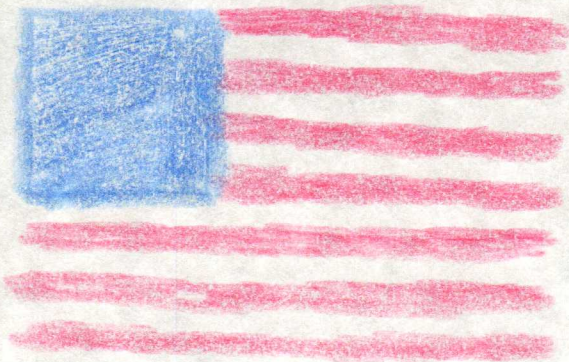
V When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

VI I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for my freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

High ideals, sir. Some might struggle with an inmate in my situation considering themselves a POW in their own country and I must make it known that I do as well. I find the code an inspiration, however, and it cannot be discounted as unsound advice to a soldier. Recently an article has been published about us here and it describes our singing of the anthem as a "ritual" and hints that our detainment and housing all in one place is to prevent a spread of "extremist ideology." Jim, with the narrative spun over us, maybe we should just be moved to Guantanamo Bay. Just this past week jail administrators and US Marshals visited our unit to check on our conditions. This likely was precipitated by the civil suit that walloped the jail recently filed by Chris Worrell. Today, Oct 25, we had one of the phones that was broken repaired and our lunch featured more beans and rice than normal. Maybe someone was listening. Still no haircuts or religious services yet though. A major issue was visitation as we are from all over these United States

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And some families are unable to travel and many refuse the VAX mandate for visitation to be extended. We argued for video visits which are available to other DC DOC inmates but not to us presently. Doug Jensen has returned to our number after a brief return home and he jokes that he may return there a second time before some of us are even released a first time. I suppose I'm blind to that humor. But morale is maintained. Yesterday we produced a comedy hour. This is the fourth we have put on and the men act out skits, read poetry, or sing lampoonish songs. We even set up a concession table to dispense popcorn. I'm fairly certain that no other jail unit in America goes to these lengths to raise spirits. It is not like a jail unit in behavior either and as Peter Stages once commented to me "There's never been a jail pod so full of good men that I've ever seen." From the attendance at Bible Study, I'd agree. Today was Jordan Mink's birthday. Bobby Gieswein, a resourceful jailhouse cook, repurposed cheerios, peanuts, honey, and a vanilla health shake into a cake to celebrate. We tell Bobby he needs to write his recipes down to publish a cookbook that would put many celebrity chefs to shame with the creativity he possesses. Every chance we are afforded outdoor recreation, Bobby is foraging for greens to add to his meals. Months ago I had greedily stuffed dandelion greens in my mouth after months of not getting fresh air, but Bobby has had a wild forage book mailed in and has much expanded what can be collected for use in salads and garnish. Shane Jenkins recently orchestrated the purchase and delivery of a large batch of Bibles and Shane acts as a focal member of the Bible study here. Jim, we are all just maintaining as none seem able to leave. Just today Jeff McKellops was denied board and the men delivered him a special treat that we enjoy, a honey bun slathered in peanut butter and microwaved. Jeff wasn't even allowed to interact with the family that had flown in for his hearing and we all know he was feeling down. It is looking like I will be here through Thanksgiving and Christmas and well into the next year. Your prayers are very welcome. Jim enjoy the fresh air and the Fall season. God Bless You and God Bless the United States of America



Kyle Fitzsimons
from the cells of the DC DOC