

Mr. Ira Bradford

April 11, 2025

Dear Ira,

It was wonderful to talk with you earlier this year and I enjoyed the photos you sent by text. Jerry was still able to enjoy looking at those pictures, so that is a good memory. I would like to thank you and the Lee Street Reunion for the thoughtful invitation to your celebration on June 20th this year. Please share this letter with the Reunion Committee and attendees of the celebration.

As you know, my husband passed away on February 28th of this year. Coach Camp/Mr. Camp/Jerry, was my sweetheart for sixty-three years of marriage and we dated for three years before marrying. Little did we know when we had our first date after the Haynesville vs Springhill football game in the fall of 1956, that one day we would marry and Jerry would coach the Springhill Lumberjacks.

Our years in Springhill were some of the best years of our lives! We moved to Springhill in the summer of 1966 with our two little girls and we lived there until 1992 when we moved to Taylor, AR, for Jerry to be superintendent there. That means that Jerry and I were teaching at SHS in February of 1970 when the Charles Brown High School students were sent to Springhill High School. I shall never forget the Monday when the Brown High students came to the SHS auditorium for orientation. I heard all of the speeches and then - -- I heard the distinguished principal, Mr. Coleman, say, "Mr. Bartlett, I present the students of Charles Brown High School and request that we may sing our Alma Mater as the Brown High Student Body one last time."

All of a sudden, I realized that each of you was being asked to give up the honor of being a proud member of the Brown High time-honored tradition, the green and white, and the Tigers mascot! I saw your tears, I heard your sobs, and I saw the uncertainty of what might lay ahead for you. In the following years, I often thought that if the SHS students had been able to witness that ceremony on that cold February Monday, they might have understood just a tiny bit of why it was so difficult to become a Lumberjack overnight just because the school board said that you should.

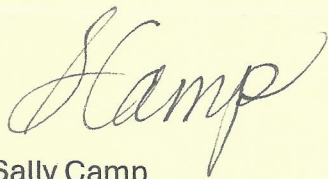
Those of us who went through those first years experienced calm, anger, sadness, happiness, peace, unrest - - name the emotion, and it was felt. Through it all, I watched strong leaders emerge and now realize that many of those leaders were coming to SHS

from Lee Street! Oh, my goodness, the thrill of seeing young people excel, regardless of their school loyalties! You excelled because you wanted to give back to your community and because you wanted to glorify the God who had given you the talents and opportunities to do so. You were Lee Street Leaders!

It is an honor for me to be considered as a mentor who helped even just one of you make it through some challenging times and who rejoiced with you as you triumphed in your journey of life. My life has changed a great deal recently and, at this time, I am not up to traveling much. I admit to using a cane and even a walker at times, but God has blessed me with still being able to sit at that piano or keyboard and help in the music program at our church. Those two daughters who were three and four years old when we moved to Springhill, went on to graduate from SHS and pursue their careers in the field of business. Dorothy is a CPA and semi-retired as a Vice-President of a Houston corporation tax department, while Suzanne retired as a high school business teacher and then a Director of Federal Funds for Bentonville, Arkansas, schools. Thank goodness for daughters who can help me with all of the paperwork that comes with the death of a loved one! They both live within just a few minutes of me and have turned the tables on me now, saying, "Mom, please text us when you get wherever you are going and then again when you get home."

It is my pleasure to share these memories with you and I am praying that each one who is privileged to attend the Lee Street Reunion will be covered by God's Hedge of Protection as you travel. May the words of the Lord given to Aaron by Moses in Numbers 6:24-26 be a blessing to every Lee Street Leader: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace."

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Camp". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sally Camp