



The Honorable Daniel D. Crabtree  
District Court Judge  
District of Kansas

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Daniel D. Crabtree,

My name is Christopher L. Smith. I am the father of Jarrett William Smith. I am writing this letter to ask for mercy and leniency in sentencing for my son.

Jarrett overcame many adversities in his early life to be able to begin his military career. He was born with a cleft lip and palate and had multiple surgeries on his mouth before he was even a year old. The surgeries continued until his adolescence and a Jarrett was often a target of cruel children because of his mouth and jaw shape. In addition to the facial issues, he had bright red hair which served to intensify the bullying and harassment he received.

Jarrett was targeted by an attempted school shooter who placed Jarrett on a personal "hit list" even though the detectives in the case could find no evidence Jarrett had mistreated the shooter. The shooter wrote on the hit list next to Jarrett's name "People would thank me for killing him". Jarrett found out about this for the first time in open court when the "hit list" was entered into evidence in the subsequent trial. These incidents as well as a number of unprovoked attacks on Jarrett (several recorded on school video) deeply wounded him both mentally and emotionally. Despite the bullying, harassment, and threats sent his way, Jarrett never sought to mistreat or abuse other kids as he was mistreated, defending himself only when he had no other recourse. He had a difficult time making friends among his peers and his social skills were awkward and unpolished. He only wanted to be accepted or, at the very least, be left alone. He received neither.

Despite these obstacles, Jarrett worked hard during his senior year and after graduation, sometimes holding multiple jobs. He had been a member of the Civil Air Patrol and had done well in his time there, even winning an award and receiving an "Outstanding Flight Summer Encampment 2009" medal. We had often talked about the possibility of a military career, possibly in aviation (he was flying planes with an Air Force instructor when he was only thirteen). We were so very proud when he chose to join the Army and serve his country and more so when we saw him graduate from basic training. Jarrett comes from a family of military service and he wanted to honor them and follow in their footsteps.

Your Honor, I ask you to show mercy and compassion on my son. His desire for acceptance played a major part in the decisions and choices he made. Allow him to return home and begin to rebuild his life to become a productive member of society. He had a completely clean record before this matter began and no history of violence towards anyone. Jarrett has a family ready, willing, and able to give him the support and structure he needs. Not just his father and mother but also his grandparents, aunts, and uncles are all vitally concerned for him and stand ready to

help any way needed. Jarrett has a pastor that will provide weekly counseling as well as employment at our church. I can promise you personally that I myself will be supervising him with the utmost scrutiny. I give you my word of honor that there will be no more incidents of this sort. We will be monitoring who he is contact with on all forms of media and making sure they are not bad influences or members of nefarious organizations or groups. Jarrett has much to do here in his hometown. I ask you for his release so that the young man can begin to rebuild his life with those who love and support him.

Sincerely,



Christopher L. Smith

