

April 5, 2020

Hello Friend!

Although I most likely do not know you personally, that doesn't matter at all to me. I have great respect for what you've done in good times and in tough times throughout your life. I'm sure there have been plenty of both over the years. Let me just say, "Thank You," for how you have lived your life and raised your family and have done the best you could do for so many years. It is a shame that your visitors are restricted for awhile due to this virus, but of course it is the right thing to do for all of us right now.

Perhaps you and other family members personally experienced some of the sacrifices everyone made during the Great Depression or during World War II. Looking back on those times with the wisdom of your years of perspective, I'm sure you would agree that those sacrifices helped our citizens like you grow as a person and were in fact a silver lining. I believe that is exactly what's going to happen with this current situation. We will end up stronger and kinder citizens after the experience.

I am a school teacher and coach at Delta High School. Right now, we cannot see our students or coach our athletes. My family doesn't live near here, and so I am alone in my home during this crisis. It can be a challenge because I am used to being busy from sunup to sundown. Instead, my days now consist of taking leisurely walks in my neighborhood (but not visiting with anyone other than a quick nod or hello) and working on school lessons on my computer. This afternoon as I walked it was so nice to hear the birds chirping, see the flowers budding, and listen as the mowers were roaring. There's nothing quite as exciting as spring each year!

Please know that you and all the other Americans like you who are isolated right now are loved! I hope you have a great day!

Your friend,

Tim Cleland

PS -- Here's a picture of some of the girls on my tennis team from last spring. (I'm in pink hat in the back row.)



And here's one of my favorite photos that I thought you might like! These two young boys (6th grade and 4th grade) were teammates in a match and it was awesome to watch the older boy try to encourage the younger one!

