



April 25, 2017

Dear Judge Castel,

I'm writing to you in support of Bill Walters and to tell you of my experiences with him.

I came to know Bill in a professional capacity. I'm a professional golf instructor and have worked with him on his golf game on numerous occasions beginning around 2009. Over the course of time we became friends and enjoyed each other's company both on and off the course. I live in Colorado during the summer and in 2012 Bill flew there to work on his game with me. Bill's a wonderful athlete and within a few minutes he was hitting the ball beautifully. At some point he asked me to sit down and talk.

Bill is an amazing reader of people and is an incredibly caring person. As we sat down he said "I've noticed you're a little more quiet and serious than usual. Something's wrong and I'd like to help if I can." How he read me so quickly I don't know, but his concern was so genuine that I opened my heart to him.

[REDACTED]

Bill listened to me and

when I finished he quietly said, "I think I can help."

[REDACTED]

Throughout that summer [REDACTED] Bill would call weekly to check on our family. His caring for all of us was certainly a part of our healing. As the summer wore on Bill sensed our stress [REDACTED] He called me and said we needed a change of scenery and some friends to cheer us up. He wanted us to come to his ocean side home in California and spend a long weekend with his wife Susan and him. We felt so grateful that he would do this and accepted his incredible invitation. Bill sent his plane to Colorado to pick my wife and me up and flew us to his home. As promised the weekend with Bill and Susan was exactly what we needed. Over the years his concern for my family has never diminished. Each time I see Bill or visit with him his first questions are always about [REDACTED] Our visits never end without him saying "anything I can ever do for you or your family please let me know."

I know Bill well. I've grown very close to him and consider him a man I trust and count on. His compassion towards all and especially the hurt, weak and needy is incredible. I've been a part of it and have seen it in his dealings with others. His big heart for others in need is as natural for him as breathing. The world needs Bill Walters. Countless people have been helped by this wonderful man. I'm honored to be his friend and my life has been Blessed because of him.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Hardy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

Jim Hardy

*Class A PGA of America*

*Golf Digest 50 Greatest Instructors (ranked #7)*

*Golf Magazine Top 100 Instructors*

*2007 PGA National Teacher of the Year*

*Member Texas Golf Hall of Fame 2011*

*Inductee in Class of 2016 World Golf Teachers Hall of Fame*