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GRE ~~Verne~~

December 2, 1974

Dear Mr. Rittenger:

Thank you most sincerely for your thoughtful letter of November 1 regarding your Mother-in-law whose son, LaVerne Knowles, played on the 1930 South High School football team. I will remember LaVerne.

When the 30-30 Club met at the White House on Thanksgiving Day for our annual brunch, we did have a moment of silent prayer for all of our departed teammates. LaVerne was in our thoughts at that time as were the other members of the team who have passed away.

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. I have sent a similar letter to your Mother-in-law, Mrs. Blake, so that she may know of our intentions.

Warmest personal regards,

Mr. Robert Rittenger
1734 - 32nd Street, S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

G-R-F

December 2, 1974

Dear Mrs. Blake:

Your son-in-law, Robert Rittenger, has written me regarding your son, LaVerne, who played guard next to me on the 1930 South High School football team. I well remember your son and considered it a pleasure to play on the same team with him.

I thought you would like to know that when the 30-30 Club met at the White House on Thanksgiving Day for our annual brunch, we had a moment of silent prayer for all of our departed teammates. LaVerne was in our thoughts at that time as were the other members of the team who have passed away. I thought you would like to know this.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Myrtle Blake
2712 Forest Grove, S.W.
Wyoming, Michigan 49509

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NOTICE
T/D _____
SCHEDULE NO. _____
DATE RECEIVED
NOV 4 1974
MESSAGE _____
SPEAKERS BUREAU _____
OTHER _____
APPOINTMENT OFFICE

1734 32nd. St. S. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Nov. 1, 1974

President Gerald R. Ford,
The White House,
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. President (Jerry):

I Am writing this letter, with the hope that it might reach you, personally. It concerns my mother-in-law, who has no knowledge of it, and has been your admirer and staunch supporter for many years. You probably remember her son, who played guard right beside you on the '30 team, LaVerne Knowles. He, I understand is one of the few that the '30 team has lost by death. From what I understand from Cliff Gettings, Sherm Coryell and Danny Rose, not much has ever been said about these "lost" members at any of the team "get-to-gathers" each year. My mother-in-law, Mrs. Myrtie Blake, would be ever so thankful, if at this wonderful meeting the '30 Club is going to have at the White House (and how I envy them) if just a moment could be given to these former members of the team, in prayer, or what have you. LaVerne lived out West and was never able to make any of the-meetings, and regretted it, so much, prior to his death. If this could be done, his mother would cherish that memory the rest of her life. She is now 85 years of age.

Like others in Grand Rapids, we are proud of you, Mr. President. I can't believe that the last time I had close contact with you was our Michigan Sports Sages meeting at Boyne Mt. two summers ago, when you joined us for the first time as a member. We were so sorry that you could not join us this past summer, but you did not forget us and we all enjoyed your message to us. Have seen you from a distance, but never closer since then. Daughter Margaret, insisted on standing in the rain and was lucky to shake your hand, agagin, at the air-port. She wouldn't have missed the chance. She remembers the help you were in her in getting her husband to the good old U. S. A. in time for there wedding. But then, you have always been helpful to your former constituents in the 5th District, in every way, and you will do a great job as our President. We are all behind you.

Thank you, Mr. President, if you can find time to read this letter in your busy days. I, naturally, value your past friendship, very much, and hope that by some miracle, you might join your Sages group at Boyne Mt. for another Michigan Sports Sages meeting. Wishful thinking, I know, but sincere. God Bless you for helping America.

Respectfully, your friend,

Bob Pittenger
We did have a moment for silent prayer for all our departed teammates.

Just in case, Mrs. Blakes address:

Mrs. Myrtie Blake,
 2712 Forest Grove, S. W.,
 Wyoming, Michigan. 49509