

## An excerpt from my last letter to my Coach

### Why I give...



*(Below is an excerpt from a letter from Virginia High School Hall of Famer Bruce Patrick to his high school basketball coach Bill Turner. Coach Turner passed away a few weeks after he read this letter. Coach Turner's wife later said that he was extremely touched by the letter and Bruce only wished that he had communicated his sentiments sooner.)*

Dear Coach,

My high school basketball experience with you saved me from an uncertain future. I can't imagine what my life would have been like if you had not been a part of it. I think—actually, I know—that my teammates and I are where we are in life today because of you. You used the game of basketball to teach us life lessons. I have carried your values with me my whole life.

What you gave your players was grounding. You were more than a coach. You were a father figure and you were a teacher. You treated us with respect. You carried us on a journey with you. That journey was not for you but for us, and we knew it. Your high level of respect told us that not only did you want the program to succeed but you wanted us to succeed, as well.

The exceptional example you set with your attention to detail, your professionalism, your strong work ethic, and your genuine compassion for every team member exemplified how a high school coach should conduct himself or herself and how he or she should lead a program. Most importantly, you modeled how to respect and treat people.

Thank you for all you have done for me and the many men who were under your guidance. You have been a positive influence on so many lives and we have all been able to “pay it forward” to many others.

With utmost respect,  
Bruce M. Patrick  
*(Fairfax High School, Class of 1969)*

### From the desk of the president



We have a wonderful opportunity in Virginia to secure the future of high school co-curricular programs. The VHSL was one of the leaders nationally, when they created the VHSL Foundation. In 1997 the executive committee said, “Why not!?” Why not create a fund that functions as an endowment to provide funding for non-revenue sports and activities. A few other states have jumped on board but we have remained leaders in the nation.

I know that nothing shaped my life quite like participation in high school sports. Playing football and running track at Brookville High School near Lynchburg had a profound impact on how I began to relate to others. It taught me life-skills that I still use today to help operate a family-owned company which was founded in 1944. This is why I'm involved and this is why I support these programs with my time and resources.

Over the past five years the VHSL Foundation has returned more than \$188,000 to member schools. Additionally, schools have retained \$772,000 in Benefit Game proceeds since the inception of the games. All of our efforts are paying off in the form of support for high school students and schools.

I have made the VHSL Foundation a priority in my giving and I hope you will do the same!

**Bert Dodson, Jr.**  
Dodson Pest Control  
President/CEO

### Introducing Lori O'Toole, VHSL Foundation Development Specialist



VHSL Executive Director Ken Tilley is pleased to announce that Lori O'Toole has joined the staff as the VHSL Foundation Development Specialist. O'Toole's primary responsibilities are to expand the visibility, awareness and financial impact of the VHSL Foundation by identifying and building relationships with schools, individuals and the corporate community.

O'Toole most recently served as the Interim After School Director at Luther Memorial School in Richmond and a Project Director for the Chesterfield Public Education Foundation. She has also worked as a Campaign Manager for United Way, an Education Manager for Junior Achievement and she has public policy experience as a congressional staffer and as a special projects coordinator for an environmental consulting firm.

O'Toole has also served in leadership positions with school organizations such as the PTA as well as with the athletic and chorus booster clubs of her local community.

### Upcoming VHSL Championships

Girl	Oct. 12-13	1A/2A @ Golden Eagle GC, Irvington 3A/4A @ Glenrochie CC, Abingdon 5A/6A @ Magnolia Green GC, Moseley
Girls Open	Oct. 26-27	Red Wing Lake Golf Course, Virginia Beach
Cheer	Nov. 7	VCU Siegel Center
Cross Country	Nov. 14	Great Meadow, The Plains
Field Hockey	Nov. 13-14	National Training Center, Virginia Beach
Volleyball	Nov. 17, 20-21	VCU Siegel Center
Theatre	Dec. 7-8	Monticello HS, Charlottesville
Football	Dec. 12	1A/2A @ Salem Stadium, Salem 3A/4A @ Williams Stadium, Liberty University 5A/6A @ Scott Stadium, University of Virginia

To make a gift, go to: <http://www.vhsl.org/foundation>

VHSL Foundation - Lifetime Opportunities Through Student Activities  
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