

IN MEMORIAM

BURLINGTON -- On July 2, 1994, Warren E. Wise, 33, of Burlington died from AIDS-related complications. Warren is survived by his family in North Carolina, many friends, and his life partner Brad Daughtry.

At Warren's burial in North Carolina, Brad shared his personal feelings about Warren and read the two letters that follow. Warren received one of the letters in 1978 as a result of being awarded a prestigious Morehead Scholarship and wrote the second letter in response in 1993.

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 24, 1978

Dear Warren,

I was pleased to learn of your selection to be a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

This is certainly an outstanding achievement. The competition is tough and only the finest young people are considered for this prestigious scholarship award.

Allow me to offer my best wishes for your continued success as you advance in your studies and sharpen your skills in preparation for the challenges of the future. Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Jesse Helms

February 13, 1993

Mr. Jesse Helms
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Helms,

I was reminiscing fondly about North Carolina today and going through some old memorabilia. I came across a letter I received from you in a box of correspondence from an exciting time in my life. In that letter you congratulated me on becoming a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina. You said in that letter, that winning a Morehead "...is certainly an outstanding achievement. The competition is tough and only the finest young people are considered for this prestigious scholarship award."

Let me thank you again for offering me these accolades many years ago. I have tried to contribute to my community and our great country in the spirit of leadership and service where the Morehead Foundation found its roots. I have served when called by government leaders on government task forces dealing with complex issues of education, infrastructure and the environment.

My upbringing in a solid North Carolina family has given me the courage to serve despite some who would see my service as less than acceptable. You see, Mr. Helms, I am gay.

My partner and I live a quiet life, attending church, serving meals to the homeless, working on community projects, and trying to break barriers of hatred in our nation. I implore you to give up some of the venomous hatred you profess in your dealings with sensitive issues surrounding the gay and lesbian community. I am no less the young man with hopes and dreams setting out to help the world than I was a decade and a half ago when I was leaving for Chapel Hill and you sent me such a nice letter of send off.

I wish you well and hope you will find it in your heart to take a gentler and more humane stance on gay issues in future years.

Sincerely,

Warren E. Wise

Contributions in Warren's memory may be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington, 152 Pearl St., Burlington, VT 05401, or Vermont CARES, 30 Elmwood Ave., Burlington, VT 05401.

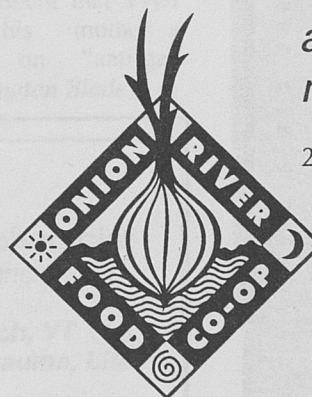
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