

CLOSING REMARKS OF SENATOR JESSE HELMS
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE A.A. FINLEY ACTIVITY CENTER IN 1974

There are many great men whom I have known and admired in my lifetime. Each has been a privilege and an inspiration. Mr. Finely, as I hope he knows, is one of them. Another is Douglas MacArthur.

They had in common a faith in their creator. And the older I get, the more convinced I become that this nations became great by Devine destiny....

And I also believe---and I would counsel the young people here today---that what America most needs is a spiritual rebirth...a return to the faith of our fathers, with honesty, responsibility and dedication as the keystones of our national life.

Like all fathers, General MacArthur wanted the best for his son---but he prayed to our Creator---not that his son be given the good life, but that his son might earn it. Here's the way he expressed it:

“Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when is he afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

“Build me a son whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a son who will know thee---and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

“Lead him, I pray, not in the path of ease and comfort, but under the stress and spur of difficulties and challenge, here let him learn to stand in the storm; here let him learn compassion fro those who fail.

“Build me a son whose head will be clear, whose goal will be high, a son who will master himself before he seeks to master others, one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past. And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mindedness of true wisdom, the meekness of true strength.

And then, said General MacArthur in his prayer, “My son will be a Man--a Man ready to seek thy grace.”

This is the kind of human development to which Ravenscroft is dedicated. This is the kind of human quality, which America must have in the years to come.

This is why Mr. A.E. Finely has so unselfishly devoted so much of his resources and his energies--not only to Ravenscroft, but to countless other worthy efforts, as well.