

To whom it may concern,

My name is Devon Tandberg. I am seventeen years old. I am a nephew of Staff Sergeant Robert Bales. I first met Robert when my aunt, Kari Bales, took him to my family's house when they first started dating. After meeting him and getting to know him, I loved him. He is kind hearted, respectful, funny, and loving. To see him called a heartless murderer not only hurts him, but it also hurts me and my family when we know that is not who he is as a man.

I remember when he was at a family get together at my family's house. My father was giving out rides in our family's airplane. When he got back from the ride, he was leaning over by the pool. For some strange reason, I got the idea to push him into the pool. So I went up behind him quietly and pushed him in. All his clothes, money, wallet, etc got soaked. Our whole family laughed for a good 5 minutes, including Robert. Till this day, our family still remembers that and it gets brought up on a frequent basis. It holds a place in one of my favorite memories.

My uncle, Robert Bales, got me really interested in football. When I got into middle school, he came to most of my games. He would always cheer me on, and would always give me tips on how to get more yards when running, or on how to catch. It was always awesome talking to him about football. He really knows his stuff. I remember when I got a breakaway on a play, and the only voice I could hear in the cheering was his. He was so loud, he drowned out the other fans from my ears. I will always remember that play.

Finally, I remember when he took me to train with him in Joint Base Louis McCord. We got up really early, and had a early morning workout. I got to work out with him and his squad. They were all super nice and funny. They all kept pushing me, keeping me working hard. After that, we ate, and then he took me on a tour of the facility. He showed me the shooting range, the vehicle depot, some awesome obstacle courses (which I got to do a few), and then we went and had another workout. This was one of the coolest experiences in my life, and I will never forget it.

Only an uncle who was loving, respectful, and caring would be able to give a kid like me these kind of awesome memories. For him to be judged by one action is wrong, especially when he the kind of man I have grown up with. He has a family that will stand by him until the end. Thank you for reading this.

Respectfully

*Devon Tandberg*