



FRANK LEAHY
1908 - 1973

In September, of 1971, Frank Leahy, from his hospital bed in Portland, Oregon, sent the following telegram to the University of Notre Dame where his former national championship players were gathered in reunion.

Dear Lads and your Fortunate Brides,

Words cannot adequately express the depth of my sadness over not being with you during the most unique gathering in athletic history. Four National Championship Teams together after 28 years, which proves conclusively your love for each other and Notre Dame. Never lose contact with that famous lady who reigns so serenely over our beautiful campus. Give her a chance not to forget you by asking assistance when necessary. She stands ready and willing to reciprocate for your unsurpassed representation during and since graduation.

The privilege of attending Notre Dame has given you an enviable mark of distinction. People everywhere expect more from you because you are a Notre Dame man, because you were a Notre Dame team, and at all times you have and will continue to measure up. While attending our Mother's School you had indelibly inscribed in your minds and hearts certain qualities that set you apart and above most others. Thank God you are cognizant of the awesome monumental challenge and responsibility.

You men are endowed with the qualities that forged our nation into greatness. Notre Dame leadership is more important now than ever before. You and others like you are in position to restore America to a position of pride, power, prestige, and popularity. You have learned many invaluable lessons at Notre Dame, especially the realization that games can never be won, character cannot be developed, that nothing of everlasting value can be achieved without desire, hard work, loyalty, self discipline and deprivation. Thanks profoundly players and assistant coaches for your almost incredible performances. I shall forever be deeply in your debt.

A short while ago, during and immediately following my previous operation many of your faces floated across my mind and I kept stressing to myself that you men never knew the meaning of the word quit so I proudly admit that enough of you rubbed off on me to keep me in the game of life. My sincere thanks and gratitude to you men of Notre Dame.

Frank Leahy

Frank Leahy played under the immortal Knute Rockne. After graduation he left Notre Dame and distinguished himself as a coach. In 1941 he returned to his Alma Mater and served as head coach of Notre Dame from 1941 to 1953, establishing a record of eighty-seven victories, eleven defeats and nine ties — an achievement that has enhanced the pride and tradition of Our Lady's school. Though his "game of life" is ended, the memory of Frank Leahy will live on in the Spirit of Notre Dame.



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