

STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND ON SENATE FLOOR, JULY 24, 1959

Mr. President:

The untimely death of football coach Jim Tatum ^{of the University of N.C.} has shocked the nation. He was a small-town South Carolina boy who reached the pinnacle of his profession ~~of~~ coaching. His career, now ended prematurely, should be an inspiration to all Americans.

Jim Tatum was a man among men. He planned it that way, as evidenced by his suggested creed, written by Dean Alfange:

"I do not choose to be a common man,
It is my right to be uncommon if I can.
I seek opportunity, not security,
I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and
dulled by having the State look after me.
I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and
to build, to fail and succeed.
I refuse to barter incentive for a dole,
I prefer the challenge of life to the guaranteed
existence;
The thrill of fulfillment to the State
Calm of Utopia, I will not trade freedom for
beneficence, nor my dignity for a handout.
I will never cower before my master, nor bend to
any threat.
It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and
unafraid . . .
To think and act for myself.
Enjoy the benefit of my creation,
To face the world boldly and say this I have done.
All this is what it means to be an American."

Jim Tatum will be missed by his fellow man, but his life will be kept in the hearts of ^{those} everyone in the sports world and all host of admirers and friends throughout the U. S. He was my true friend, and I feel a great personal loss in his passing.

END