

September 24, 2015

Governor Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear: Honorable Nikki R. Haley, I want to attend the Air Force Academy and serve my Country in the United States Air Force. I am requesting that you assist me with being considered as one of Congressman Joe Wilson's nominees for the class that enters the Academy in June 2016, by contacting his office and providing me with your recommendation to Senator Lindsey Graham.

My pertinent data is:

Name:	Ta'Vonne Katrell Bond
Social Security Number:	656-03-1605
Permanent address:	307 Lockshire Road Columbia, SC 29212
Permanent phone number:	803-551-5567
Father:	Ervin G. Bond
Mother:	Sharon D. Bond
Date and Place of Birth:	February 23, 1998 - Columbia South Carolina
Name of High School:	Irmo High School 6671 St. Andrews Road Columbia, SC 29212
Date of graduation:	June 6, 2016

Currently my grade point average (GPA) is a 3.24, my rank in class is 133 out of 355 students, SAT score 1270 Critical reading is 420 and Math 430, Writing 420 and my ACT score is 19.

Extracurricular activities: Currently I am a member of Irmo High School's Beta Club, previously involved with the Boys Scouts of America,

Reasons for wanting to enter the Air Force Academy:

Thank you for considering me as one of your nominees to the Air Force Academy

Sincerely,

Ta'Vonne Bond

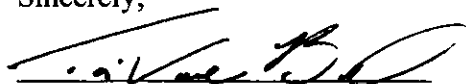
From the time I was very young I have had aspirations of becoming a pilot with the United States Air Force. My grandfather and my cousin served in the USAF. Learning about their experiences ignited in me a passion for the importance of serving for my country. I'm thankful for the protection the men and women who serve in the military provide for our country every day. Having grown up with this influence, I have always experienced a sense of appreciation, fascination, and pride in the military and the sacrifices its members make for our country.

I am aware of the commitment and leadership skills it takes to have a successful career within the military. Throughout my academic career I have been involved with various organizations that have allowed me to build on my leadership skills. Being a member of the Beta Club, my boys scout experience, a leader in the academic settings and working with younger students has provided me with an environment in which I have been able to cultivate leadership, time management, and organizational skills. I am particularly interested in engaging in environments where I can develop and leverage these skills. I understand that this is both expected and cultivated at the Air Force Academy.

I am confident that I will flourish at the Air Force Academy. While I have gained much in the way of academic foundations from Irmo High School, my goal is to be part of a more formal structure. I understand that the accountability, responsibility and camaraderie typically associated with the USAFA offers much more than traditional institutes of higher education and I am more than able and willing to take on any challenges presented to me. During my tenure as a student at this level, my academic achievements have resulted from high standards, character, and hard work. I am convinced that the US Air Force Academy will deliver that ideal educational experience and growth opportunity for me as well. With these tools, I have been described as self confident, determined and a person who is able to meet challenges and make appropriate decisions.

I believe the USAFA will prepare me academically, fashion me into a better leader, and allow me to demonstrate the qualities sufficient to lead and direct in any environment. I can offer enthusiasm, high morals, values, cooperation, and passion. I am a team player with an individual and group expectation for the pursuit of excellence. I have no doubt that I will be a positive addition to the culture and climate of the United States Air Force Academy as a student, as well as, an athlete. The Academy will further develop the confidence and conviction to execute professionalism in my career. Finally, I will be a positive representative of the culture and values of the US Air Force Academy and to my country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ta'Vonne K. Bond', written over a horizontal line.

Ta'Vonne K. Bond

The worst point in my life came towards the end of my sixth grade of elementary school, when my younger brother during my mother giving birth tragically passed away. I never had the opportunity to get to know my younger brother Isaiah due to complications during his birth. At five months the doctor told my parent that if they go through with the pregnancy my brother would be born with multiple challenges. My father told me it was because his brain was not developing appropriately and his brain was filled with water. When my father told me I did not want to believe him because I wanted to be a big brother, to have someone to take care of and to have someone look up to me and show him the right things to do, someone to protect and having someone to share my dreams with, a little brother.

That moment in my life remains so clear; it's like watching a TV show over and over again, I remember my father calling me into my mother's room after she had given a life birth to my brother. I did not want to go in; I did not want to see him because I knew he would not be in my life. At that moment I felt lost, empty and scared and did not know what to do, I was numb no feelings of emotions in my body. I remember Mr. Sumpter one of my father's friend coming out and talking to me, then my grandmother came out to talk to me, and they both walked me into the room with my parents and my mother. I could see the pain on my mother's face, while she cried and did not want to see or hold my little brother in her arms. This made me feel even worst, as my dreams were shattered for a life with my brother and parents.

I, remember the nurse placing my brother in my arms so I could hold him, then a lady with a camera came into the room and spoke with everyone. Then she started taking pictures of me and my brother, my father, grandmother and then pictures of all of us. But, my mother would not look at my brother, hold him or take pictures with him that made me very sad because my mother was in such much emotional pain. After the lady took the pictures I remember my father holding my little brother in his arms for about two to three hours, walking down the hall with him, talking to him and just showing him so much love. While my father walked down the hall he would stop and tell me your brother would have been proud of you, so don't worry he will watch you from Heaven and protect you.

As, a result, my academics did not look good, I did not want to hang out with my friends, did not want to talk to anyone, did not want to go to school. A couple of months later I began to feel better, I realized that I needed to be strong for myself, and for my mother who was crying every day. Talking to and watching the strength of my father helped me to deal with the lost of my brother, I don't know how he did it but he was so strong would not allow me to see him cry, even though I knew he was hurting inside. My father's strength helped me begin to take the steps to do my best once again in school, as well as allow my friends to be friends to me. The lost of my brother gave me the strength to be there for my friends, they became my brothers.

The lost of my brother and watching my mother's pain was an experience that emotionally drained me, but also gave me the strength to overcome other things that happened while I was growing up. This experience allowed me to begin to think more clearly about what I wanted out of life, while giving me the strength to overcome future obstacles that might hinder me from moving forward. As a result of my brother's death it allowed me to realize that my friends and family loved me more than I could imagine. In-addition it also increased my level of involvement with younger children growing up, wanting to be a positive role model for them academically as well as show them how hard work would pay off in the classroom as well as on the basketball court. This allowed me to become a committed student, strong and aware of my surroundings, and an individual with a desire to be a positive person in my community.

In the years after my brother's death, I continued to work hard in the classroom as well as on the basketball court, becoming a student athlete. I enjoyed working with the younger youth tutoring them, teaching them and role modeling the proper behavior they should display. I believe that this preparation prepared me for my journey to the United States Air Force Academy, where I will be a successful part of the Air Force.

Sincerely,

TaVonne Bond
307 Lockshirerd
Columbia, SC 29212
Bktbg@yahoo.com

Objective

Completing my High School academic requirements, being accepted into a College or University where I will pursue my dream of obtaining my Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, while also playing college basketball

Education

Irmo High School 2012 to present, GPA 3.24

Awards and Leadership

Beta club, 2013-15

Irmo High School Varsity basketball team captain 2014 to present,

South Carolina High School League Region V- AAAA All Region State player 2014-15

Irmo High School Yellow Jacket Club Academic Excellence Award While participating in Athletics
2014-15

Voted by SC Phenom Show Case as one of the Top 80 Player in the State

Activities

Irmo High School basketball 2012 to present

Track and Field

Photography

Playing the Violin

Experience

Boys Scout of America partnership with The Colonial Life Arena Basketball camp counselor 2012-16

Mayor Steve Benjamin Skills & Drills Summer Basketball and Mentoring camp counselor 2012-216

Richland County School District One Slam Camp summer program counselor 2015

Oliver Gospel Mission Volunteer 2015

Interests

Joining the United States Air Force, I, also enjoy learning new creative things, reading, writing, public speaking, working with younger children, and being a mentor, in-addition I also enjoy architect, designing infrastructures, buildings, developing plans, and designing and modifying automobiles, finally participating in sporting activities.

Irmo Yellow Jacket Club

April 21, 2015

Dear Athletics & Parents,

Your participation the Varsity Basketball Team is being honored by receiving an academic certificate and patch for academic success. Congratulations for your hard work and dedication to your school and sport. The Irmo Yellow Jacket Club is pleased to present this award. Varsity athletes who are sophomores, juniors or seniors are being recognized for having a cumulative minimum 3.0 GPA or higher currently.

Of all the financial support provided by the Irmo High School Athletic Department (to buy equipment, uniforms, regional and state plaques, varsity sweats, patches, emblems, certificates, and a host of other monetary recognition) this award gives us the most joy.

Congratulations!

Irmo Yellow Jacket Club

ITYJC

ITYJC Executive Board

Beth Well- President, Kent Hill-VP, Michael Cates-Secretary, Mark Litz-Treasurer

Irmo High School Athletic Department

Reggie Kennedy, Athletic Director 803-476-3214 (o) jkennedy@lexrich5.org

Judy Cook, Athletic Secretary 803-476-3006 (o) jmcook@lexrich5.org

ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE
AWARD



Irma High School

Yellow Jacket Club

Presented to

Tavonne Bond

*for achieving Academic Excellence
while Participating in Athletics*

for the year **2014-2015**

Varsity Basketball

Beth Weir

PRESIDENT

Reggie Kennedy
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

T. Whipple
COACH

REGION V-AAAA



Irmo
Yellow Jackets



Lexington
Wildcats



White Knoll
Timberwolves



South Aiken
Thoroughbreds

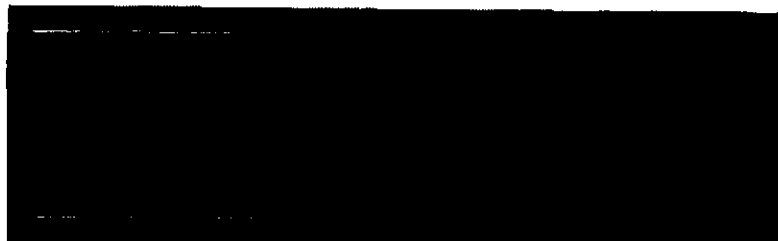


River Bluff
Gators



North Augusta
Yellow Jackets

ALL-REGION



September 19, 2015

To Whom This May Concern

I am very impressed with Ta'Vonne Bond. He is enthusiastic, has a strong sense of purpose and an intense desire to be the best that he can be. Ta'Vonne is a senior at Irmo High School in Columbia, South Carolina with a grade point average of 3.24. He is a member of the Beta Club and has a strong desire to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, leadership and service among elementary and secondary school students.

Ta'Vonne is a star athlete and plays high school and AAU basketball. He is a skill shooting guard and show great leadership qualities as a point. Each year he has received an award for achieving Academic Excellent while participating in athletics. A very unselfish and motivated young man, Ta'vonne assists with teaching young kids the fundamentals of the game of basketball.

In addition to his school activities, Ta'Vonne is very active in the community by volunteering to assist with the local program for the homeless and helping where ever he is needed.

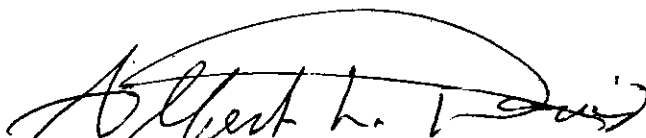
Upon graduation from high school, Ta'Vonne will receive an extended studies diploma for going beyond and above the minimum requirements for graduation. To be eligible for this award, the student must earn 28 units of credit, perform 10 hours of community service work each year (9th – 12th grades).

He plans to major in Engineering in college and has a strong interest in the Air Force Academy. He was invited to meet with US Senator Lindsey Graham to learn the procedure for admission to a military academy.

I have known Ta'vonne since he was an infant, his parents has instilled in him high positive values and a strong work ethic. He is reliable, dedicated, discipline and eternally upbeat, and consistently demonstrated all of these qualities and more. As a retired US Air Force Commissioned Officer with more than 30 years active service, I strongly believe Ta'Vonne will be a big asset to the Air Force Academy or any college or university for that matter.

Ta'Vonne is a hardworking, top-performing student. He has my highest recommendation, and I am happy to furnish more details if you would like additional information. I heartily endorse him for acceptance to any college, university or, military academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert L. Davis", with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Albert L. Davis, D.Ed
USAF Lt Col (Ret)