

JEANNE M. KUGLICS CREESE

176 Pennsylvania Ave., Rochester, PA 15074
jmkc726@hotmail.com • 724-624-0206

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Dear Mr. Kaiser:

Please find this quick note to share how much I enjoyed your book, "Herbert's War." During a discussion on our parents, Brad recommended your book and I am very grateful for the opportunity to read your work and to learn the amazing story of Colonel Herbert.

As an avid reader of everything, even the back of a cereal box if desperate, I have a special affinity for biographies and non-fiction. Your book ranks among my all-time favorites with both the story and your style of writing compelling me to read "just one more chapter" before turning out the lights or walking the dog.

Colonel Herbert's story and your dedication to telling it will always remain part of my consciousness. Perhaps a deep seated need for truth and right to prevail is engrained in our Western Pennsylvania heritage? I certainly related to the vivid picture of the town where you and Colonel Herbert spent your youth and it allowed me to picture my parents' early years. These same parents passed along values that made me indignant each time a person choose the easy or self-serving path instead of supporting Colonel Herbert stand.

Colonel Herbert's story had so many moments where I wanted to cry and scream over the injustice, yet I closed the book with peace and the deepest of reminders that while an individual may suffer repeated blows, in the larger picture their life may influence others and be remembered in ways they could not imagine. Please know I will never forget Colonel Herbert's life and your devotion as his friend in telling his story.

Twenty-five years ago I choose a career in public service believing I could best use my talents to lead local communities and help people. Silly girl and changing world! Far too often I have encountered local government corruption and hypocrisy, and my personal refusal to participate and to occasionally "blow the whistle" has cost me professionally, financially and most deeply, personally. There is no denying I spend many nights awake debating if doing the right thing really matters, especially when it can isolate you from the people and institutions you set-out to serve. While I may always lose sleep to this ethical struggle, my internal conversation will be less lonely when I recall Colonel Herbert.

In trying to find the right path in both my local government and public safety careers I have always taken inspiration from Elie Wiesel's Nobel Prize acceptance speech reminding us of the dangers of failing to take sides and that neutrality and silence helps oppressors and not victims. Colonel Herbert's story has been added to my narrative and hopefully many others who seek direction in tough situations. Thank you so much for your commitment to tell this story.

Sincerely,

