

U.S. District Court
Southern District of Georgia
Attn: Honorable Judge J. Randal Hall
P.O. Box 1130
Augusta, GA 30903

Dear Honorable J. Randal Hall,

I am writing to provide a character reference for Brandon Thurmond, who I have known since our 7th-grade year when we played football together at Glenn Hills Middle School. In my capacity as Brandon's friend, I have had the privilege of witnessing Brandon's character, deep devotion to his family, and willingness to give back to his community.

Throughout our interactions, Brandon has consistently demonstrated a strong sense of character. Whether that was on the football field or in the classroom, Brandon has always been someone who could be relied upon when needed. I fondly remember him being in the locker room making tense moments relaxed as we prepared for a game or practice. He was a fierce competitor that pushed me to better myself on and off the field as a football player and a leader. Every workout, every class, there was a constant reminder that I had a friend who was there to push me. I appreciated those lessons then and I appreciate them even more now.

Brandon's commitment to his family is unmatched by anyone I have had the opportunity to come in contact with. The love that I have seen Brandon show for his daughter, Laila, is amazing. There was an instance in which he surprised his daughter after being away for a while and you could see the excitement in his daughter's face and the love they shared. Given the tears that she shed, you could see that Brandon's being away had a significant effect on her and her development. It has been shown on countless occasions the importance of a father in the development of a young lady's sense of self-worth and emotional stability. Brandon's deep devotion to his family extends to those with whom he's biologically related and to those he is not. I have witnessed the relationship that Brandon has been able to foster with his girlfriend's daughter Dakota. As Dakota's former principal and Brandon's friend, I have seen his involvement with her. From picking her up in the carpool lane to going to her cheerleading events, Brandon has shown a deep commitment to ensuring that Dakota is fully supported.

Brandon's willingness to give back to the community is a key part of his character. Brandon has offered numerous times to come and speak to the scholars at my school to share stories of betterment and how to navigate this conduit that we call life. We are currently in the process of establishing a mentorship program where young male scholars can have an outlet to learn how to manage their emotions in a positive manner that allows them to have a positive impact on their school community and communities at large.

In summary, I wholeheartedly endorse Brandon as a family man with outstanding character who wants to make a positive impact on his community. I have the utmost confidence in his ability to navigate any challenges he may face and I believe that he will continue to positively impact those that have the pleasure of being around him both personally and professionally.

I appreciate your consideration of my evaluation of Brandon's character and please do not hesitate to contact me should additional information need to be provided.

Sincerely,

Eddie L. Lovett Jr.