

# The White Jackets

At the annual homecoming of William and Mary College, many of the returning alumni wear white jackets. This is true even of graduates who have gained high positions – including a college president, a state governor and many business and professional leaders.

Why the white jackets? They show that the wearers were among the many students who helped earn their way through college by waiting on tables. Their white jackets symbolized a willingness to serve in a not-so-glamorous job.

I can relate to the feelings of these alumni. One of my part-time jobs as I worked my way through college was to wash dishes in a restaurant in downtown Cookeville, Tenn. The responsibilities included not only washing dishes, pots and pans, but scrubbing floors after the restaurant had closed and the patrons had left. But every time I look at the Tennessee Tech class ring on my finger, I am reminded that the effort was worth it.

Most things in life that are valuable require a substantial price, and it is not always measured by money. One of the lessons we come to understand as we grow older is that the best investments we make are in people. If we humble ourselves and sacrifice time and energy for the sake of others, then we are doing what our Lord would have us do. And He was the best example. Although Christ was the Holy Son, He washed the dirt from the disciples' feet.

In the work of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, we are serving as He did, and in the process, we are glorifying God and laying up treasures in heaven.

One day, we will discover that the effort was worth it.

--Beecher Hunter