

Withholding Advice

Ida and David both wanted their sons to graduate from college. They knew their boys would have to pay their own way since David never made more than \$150 a month. Still, they encouraged their sons to achieve all they could.

Arthur, however, went directly from high school to a job. Edgar began studying law. When Dwight graduated from high school, he didn't have a goal in mind, so he and Ed made a pact: Dwight would work two years while Ed studied, sending Ed as much as he could, and then they would reverse the arrangement.

While working, Dwight found an opportunity that appealed to him more than college – West Point.

Both Ida and David were crushed by Dwight's decision. Ida was deeply convinced that soldiering was wicked. Still, all she ever said to him was, "It is your choice." David also remained silent, allowing his adult son full freedom to forge his own adult future.

Yes, Ida and David wisely held their tongues – but they never withheld their applause, especially on the day their son, General Dwight Eisenhower, became President of the United States of America.

Sometimes, refraining from giving advice may actually turn out to be the best gift you may ever give a person. That is particularly true if we attempt to thwart or stand in the way of another's pursuit of a dream.

--Beecher Hunter