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Dear Patient Families,

As we entered this holiday season, Veterans Day meant more to me personally than ever before. On February 5th 2011 my youngest son, Corporal Christopher Crawford, will have served our country in the USMC for five years. Presently, he is serving in Afghanistan and I am thankful he is scheduled to return to his USA base mid-January, and then home to us in May.

The motto on the banner displayed during the Veterans Days ceremony in Washington was "Sacrifice...Service...Pride." For some reason these words kept replaying in my mind this week. I think it is because as citizens of this great country there has been a great deal of sacrifice, service and pride required by all of us as we rise from the economic depression of the last two to three years.

Just as I am ever mindful of the brave souls protecting our homeland, I am also very thankful for each of you, for allowing me to serve you and the ones you love. I feel a positive change is coming to our lives. I can see hope and happiness returning to our community. I am proud of my office staff and clinical team as they continue to strive to serve our patient family better every day. Together, with the support of my dedicated team and the continued support of each of you through the referral of your friends and family, our practice has continued to grow.

Every two years Invisalign has an international Summit meeting where clinicians from around the globe can compete with their most challenging patient's cases. First, I was proud to be invited to speak at this meeting of 2500 of my peers. Secondly, we had six patient's cases make it to the top 75 best treated Invisalign cases world wide.

Even though I've been practicing for 17 years now I still take great joy in treating every patient to the best of my ability every day. I truly enjoy sharing what I have learned with my peers with the ultimate goal of all patients receiving better care. Often on my way to the office in the morning I listen to Neil Diamond's song *Pretty Amazing Grace*. It sets a tone of thankfulness for my day. The lyrics in the last stanza accurately reflect my feelings in this holiday season and I would like to share them with you:

***You gave me a truth I could believe in
You led me to that higher place
Showed me that love, and truth, and hope, and grace
Were all I needed.***

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support as we continue to make the world a better place, one beautiful smile at a time. Happy Holidays to you all!

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Peace and love to you and yours,

Linda Crawford

Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

