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To Whom It May Concern,

A dear friend of mine, Michael Czyzewski, asked me to write a personal letter of reference. When Michael asked me to write this letter I was ecstatic! What an opportunity to put into words just how remarkable of a person he is. Then it hit me. All of a sudden, I was very nervous about writing such a letter. How do I put into words what a great person Michael is, and how much he means to his family and friends? Writing this letter, as I soon found out, was a very difficult task, to say the least. So, please allow me the opportunity to share with you a time in my recent past when my friendship with Michael was put to the test. This, I feel, will show you the true character of Michael Czyzewski.

I have known Michael for over ten years now and I can honestly say he is one of my best friends. Not only is Michael there with his friendship, support, and words of wisdom when times are good, but he is also there when times are bad. A few years ago I experienced multiple tragedies that tested my strength, spirit, and faith; one of which was the loss of my leg. It is very difficult to put into words just how life-altering the amputation of a limb is to your mind and spirit. It completely changes your perspective on life, and you feel as though you are no longer whole. Feeling incomplete and worthless at the time, I questioned my will to live.

Luckily, my friend Michael was there for me. He always made sure I knew I was not alone, that I had the strength to make it past my struggles, and most importantly, that I was loved. He was there for me when many other people were not. Michael did not turn his back and run when his friendship was needed the most. When I was in need of someone, Michael was there for me. He was there for me with a shoulder for me to cry on and a rock for me to lean on. I shudder to think where I would be now if I did not have such a wonderful, compassionate friend like Michael, who truly cares about me as a person. He gave me the courage to live.

Having known Michael for many years, I recognize the fact that the same dedication he brings to his relationship with me, he brings to all his relationships, including his family, friends, employer, and fellow coworkers. Your organization would be very lucky to have Michael on your team.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to tell you personally about my friend Michael Czyzewski.

Sincerely,

W. Mark Sweatman