

## LETTER TO MY FATHER

You were born June 1, 1967 into a city that didn't like Black men, and yet with the strength of your father Albert James Heard Sr, and your mother Betty Marie Irvin-Heard they made sure you went to school, and got your education. They provided you with every tool you needed to be successful in Chicago, and for the most part you were. Then the 80's hit, and drugs, and gangs entered Chicago, and took every good black man down with them. You gave birth to Angel Marie Heard, your only son Anthony Phillip Heard Jr, and your youngest daughter Antwanette D. Heard. You were able to marry your love, and finish school something now a days never happen in Chicago because every young black boy is dien in the streets. With all that you did right in your young 23 years on this earth you made the fatal mistake of being apart of Chicago's most dangerous gang, and becoming a high ranking member. You left the house that night of November 14th, 1990, and never thought you weren't going to see your kids, and family again. Yet someone else had another plan for you, and you were shot, and kelt in front of the store you went to your entire life. You left a confused son not understanding why he didn't have a father, and was force to grow up in the late 80's, and 90's in Chicago.

I always held that against you, and hated you for so long. Now as a grown man i understand the struggle of life, and what you went through growing up in the windy city. I no longer hold you responsible, and hate you for leaving me. Instead i want to tell you happy 52 birthday, and happy father day. I love you Anthony Phillip Heard Sr, and is proud to be your son.

We have no more room for hate, and now must forgive, and love. I try my best to cherish the little time i had with you, and keep those memories close for i can't never forget you when everytime i look in the mirror i see you staring back at me.

I love you father, from your only son  
Anthony Jr

wrote June 1, 2019