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## 10 Years Later, the Real Meaning Of the Joe Holt Story Develops

Remember the name Joseph H. Holt, Jr.?

Perhaps not, for a decade is a long time to remember a name. Joseph H. Holt, Jr., now a first lieutenant in the United States Air Force and a skilled navigator, was a young Negro high school boy in Raleigh a decade ago. His parents tried to enroll him in Needham Broughton High School, then an all-white school within sight of the Holt residence on Oberlin Road. The Raleigh School Board went to court to keep the boy out of Broughton, and he was graduated from Ligon High in 1960 before the suit was settled.

Since that time, Lt. Holt was graduated from St. Augustine's College here, entered the Air Force and completed officer training school at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

He's back in the news, this time as the navigator who played a major role in bringing a crippled C-130 Hercules transport plane to a safe landing in the Philippines after a series of emergencies over the South China Sea on a flight from Thailand. As the navigator, Lt. Holt had to bring the plane as directly as possible to Clark Air Base in the Philippines. A mistake on his part would have meant real disaster for the plane and all aboard.

The efficient job this young Air Force officer did under such pressure should say something to us about the wisdom of making it possible for all American citizens to use to the fullest the abilities and talents they have. The boy Joe Holt was denied the superior

education he could have received at Broughton, and thus was denied the opportunity to use to the fullest as a high school student the talents he has in such full measure.

Fortunately, Joe Holt didn't let the slap in the face he received from his home town school board keep him from digging in and getting a solid education. Fortunately, he sharpened up his talents to the extent that he is able to handle a navigator's job skillfully.

Broughton is now integrated, and young Raleigh Negro citizens who have the academic talents needed in that superior school may go there to get their high school educations. There is now no such slap in the face as Joe Holt got as a boy.

The happy ending of the Joe Holt story in his guiding that crippled plane to a safe landing should emphasize the real good that can come from helping every man develop to the fullest his abilities. Every young Raleighite, white or Negro, who is helped to develop his talents has that much better chance to become a good and useful citizen of the community. The well-trained high school graduate will have better chance to become a better-trained college graduate. The well-educated citizen can hold down the better-paying jobs, can pay more taxes, can buy a more expensive home, can provide better food and better clothing for his family, can buy a better automobile.

It's not only right to help people develop their talents, it's smart.

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