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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 1, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your signature are letters to the next of kin of the servicemen killed in the Saigon C-5A crash and letters to the next of kin of the four servicemen killed during the evacuation of the last week.

They have been cleared by the Secretary of Defense, NSC and Paul Theis.

If you approve the letters, they will be signed by the autopen.

Approve

DC7

Disapprove

Don

Letters signed 5/2

(Friedman)PT

May 1, 1975

To Wives of Two Marine Officers killed in Crash off Vietnam

Dear Mrs. _____:

Mrs. Ford has asked to join me in this personal note on this very sad occasion. We wish there were words with which we could adequately communicate our sympathy for you and your family.

We regret that there is nothing we can do or say to lessen the bereavement and pain that came so suddenly to you and your family this week. Yet, we want you to know that our thoughts are with you and to tell you how saddened we are.

As President, I honor the memory of First Lt. _____. He died in the performance of his duties as an officer of the United States Marine Corps on a mission of rescue that has made us all proud.

Please accept the heartfelt personal condolences of Mrs. Ford and myself.

Shea

May 1, 1975

To parents of two Marine corporals killed at Saigon airport

Dear Mr. and Mrs. _____:

Mrs. Ford and my sons and daughter join with me on this very sad occasion ^{to} ~~in sending~~ this personal note. We wish there were words to communicate the heartfelt sympathy of the Ford family for your family.

There is nothing we can do or say to lessen the bereavement and pain that so suddenly came to you this week. Yet, we want you to know that our thoughts are with you.

As President, I honor the memory of your brave son. He died so that others might live. His own life, brief ^{as} ~~though~~ it was, reflected the finest expression of Americanism. Corporal _____ died on a mission of rescue in the service of ^{his country.} ~~humanity~~. He will live forever in the hearts of the American people.

Please accept the heartfelt condolences of the Ford family.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

2621

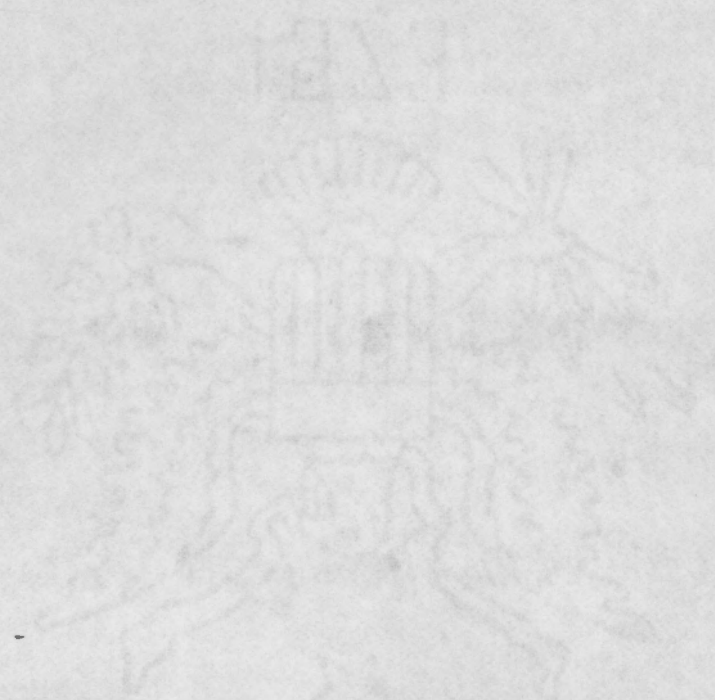
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT *RS*
SUBJECT: Letters of Condolence

The National Security Council Staff supports the Secretary of Defense's recommendation that the President sign the attached letters (Tab A).

*5/1 - Letters sent to Eliska Hasek
for signature.*



A

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 4/22/75

TO: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: JERRY H. JONES

Do you have any problems with
the attached letters?

2621

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES

FROM: BILL GULLEY

We support the Secretary of Defense's
recommendation that the President sign
the attached letters.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

21 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR Captain Leland S. Kollmorgen, USN
 Military Assistant to the President
 The White House

SUBJECT: Letters of Condolence

Under current procedures, the only Presidential letters of condolence being issued at this time are for personnel who have been listed as MIA and their status has changed to KIA. As an exception to this policy, it appears appropriate for the President to send condolence letters to the ten (10) military personnel who were killed in a C-5 aircraft accident on 4 April 1975, while transporting orphans out of Vietnam. The proposed letters are attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Kenneth R. Bailey
Colonel, USA
Military Assistant

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JERRY JONES

FROM: BILL GULLEY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Gulley', is written over the name 'BILL GULLEY' in the 'FROM:' line.

We support the Secretary of Defense's recommendation that the President sign the attached letters.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

21 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR Captain Leland S. Köllmorgen, USN
 Military Assistant to the President
 The White House

SUBJECT: Letters of Condolence

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Kenneth R. Bailey
Colonel, USA
Military Assistant

Attachment

SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

DATE 14 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: ARMED FORCES AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT, THE WHITE HOUSE

THRU: WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE LIAISON SECTION
ROOM 3A-938, The Pentagon

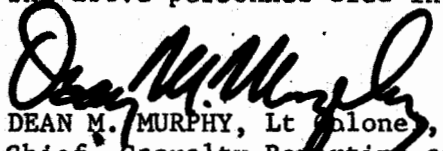
The attached letters of condolence are forwarded for the signature of the President

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>	<u>NAME OF NOK</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF NOK</u>
Aguillon, Felizardo C.	TSgt	4 April 1975	Mrs. Felizardo C. Aguillon	2042 San Luis St. Fairfield, CA 94533
Castro, Joe	MSgt	4 April 1975	Mrs. Joe Castro	636 E. Yale Ave Fresno, CA 93704
Dionne, Donald T., Sr.	SSgt	4 April 1975	Mrs. Donald T. Dionne Sr 216 Claggett St. Travis AFB CA 94535 & Donald T. Dionne, Jr. 39525 12th St. W., Palmdale CA 93550	
Johnson, Denning C.	TSgt	4 April 1975	Mrs. Denning C. Johnson	P.O. Box 542 Dunn NC 27707
Klinker, Mary T.	Capt	4 April 1975	Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Klinker	3352 Woodmar Court West Lafayette, IN 47906
Melton, Edgar R.	Capt	4 April 1975	Mrs. Edgar R. Melton	166 Asbury St. Vacaville, CA 95688
Nance, Kenneth E.	Sgt	4 April 1975	Mr. & Mrs. Harold E. Nance	1274 E. Mendocino St. Altadena, CA 91001
Paget, Michael G.	SSgt	4 April 1975	Mr. & Mrs. Gordon W. Paget	3950 W226th St, Apt 35 Torrance, CA 90505

Continuation Sheet - Condolence Letters

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>	<u>NAME OF NOK</u>	<u>ADDRESS OF NOK</u>
Payne, Wendle L.	MSgt	4 April 1975	Mrs. Wendle L. Payne	811 Azalea Way *Vacaville, CA 95688
Willis, William S.	Lt. Col	4 April 1975	Mrs. William S. Willis	686 81st Place APO San Francisco 96274

The above personnel died in the C-5A aircraft accident near Tan Son Nhut AB, Republic of South Vietnam.


DEAN M. MURPHY, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Casualty Reporting and
Survivor Assistance Branch



USE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Aguillon:


I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Technical Sergeant Felizardo C. Aguillon.


I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your husband will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Felizardo C. Aguillon
2042 San Luis Street
Fairfield, California 94533





HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Castro:


I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Master Sergeant Joe Castro.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your husband will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joe Castro
636 East Yale Avenue
Fresno, California 93704



DUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Dionne:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Staff Sergeant Donald T. Dionne, Sr.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your husband will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Donald T. Dionne, Sr.
216 Claggett Street
Travis Air Force Base, California 94535

✓



E HOUSE

INGTON

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Klinker:


I have learned with great sadness of the death of your daughter, Captain Mary T. Klinker.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your daughter will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of her profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. Her dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your daughter has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Klinker
3352 Woodmar Court
West Lafayette, Indiana 47906



THE

W

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Technical Sergeant Denning C. Johnson.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your husband will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Denning C. Johnson
Post Office Box 542
Dunn, North Carolina 27707

✓

HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Willis:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Lieutenant Colonel William S. Willis.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your husband will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. William S. Willis
686 81st Place
APO San Francisco 96274

✓

THE WIFE

WAS

Dear Mrs. Payne:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Master Sergeant Wendle L. Payne.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your husband will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wendle L. Payne
811 Azalea Way
Vacaville, California 95688

✓

HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Paget:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Staff Sergeant Michael G. Paget.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your son will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon W. Paget
3950 West 226th Street
Apartment 35
Torrance, California 90505

HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Melton:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Captain Edgar R. Melton.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your husband will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Edgar R. Melton
166 Asbury Street
Vacaville, California 95688

E HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Nance:


I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Sergeant Kenneth E. Nance.

I realize that words alone are of little comfort in so great a loss. Your son will be remembered as a dedicated American who faced the dangers of his profession so that other people might have the opportunity to live in the freedom we enjoy. His dedication to freedom will inspire other men to a new appreciation of its blessings and provide a new determination to enjoy them.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect and gratitude your son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Nance
1274 East Mendocino Street
Altadena, California 91001



MAY 2 1975

Dear Mrs. Shea:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, First Lieutenant Michael J. Shea. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your husband's profound sacrifice.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

/s/GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Michael J. Shea
5840 Porpoise Drive
El Paso, Texas 79929

Dear Mrs. Nystul:

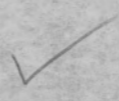
I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Captain William C. Nystul. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your husband's profound sacrifice.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect your husband has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

/s/GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. William C. Nystul
823 Kingsley Drive
Arcadia, California 91006



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Judge:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Lance Corporal Darwin L. Judge. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son's profound sacrifices.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect your son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Judge
11B New Castle Road
Marshalltown, Iowa 50158

GRF:beo



Dear Mr. and Mrs. McMahon:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Corporal Charles McMahon, Jr. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son's sacrifices.

Mrs. Ford and I want you to know that you and your loved ones are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We pray that the eternal respect your son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Mr. and Mrs. Charles McMahon
51 Montvale Avenue
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801

