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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 23, 1975

MR. PRESIDENT:

Attached for your signature are letters to the next of kin of the servicemen killed during the Mayaguez incident. They have been cleared by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, NSC and Roland Elliott. If you approve the letters will be signed by the autopen.

Approve GR7

Disapprove _____

2 signed

Don

*15 ltr's signed
given to John
Katharine for delivery
& mailing out
5/24/75*

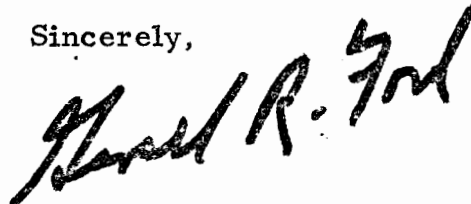
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Turner:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Private First Class Kelton R. Turner. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the typed word "Sincerely,".

Mrs. Esther B. Turner
2111 Fifth Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90018

Dear Mrs. Rumbaugh:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Staff Sergeant Elwood E. Rumbaugh. 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,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Elwood E. Rumbaugh
508 North Herrin Street
Dothan, Alabama 36301

Dear Mrs. Blessing:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Private First Class Lynn Blessing. 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,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Lynn Blessing
443 West King Street
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603

GRF:GEL:seo 179 48 65 64

Dear Mrs. Vandegeer:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Second Lieutenant Richard Vandegeer. 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,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Richard Vandegeer
East Hawley Road
Charlemont, Massachusetts 01339

EXEC
ND-81 -2/

416 58 0883

Dear Mrs. Gause:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your husband, Petty Officer Bernard Gause, Jr., United States Navy. 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,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Bernard Gause, Jr.
1932 "I" Tree Top Lane
Birmingham, Alabama 35216

EXEC
ND-81-2/

273 56 4886

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Manning:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Hospitalman Ronald James Manning, United States Navy. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

**Mr. and Mrs. James H. Manning
1213 Wentworth Avenue
Toronto, Ohio 43964**

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Benedett:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Private First Class Daniel A. Benedett. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

**Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Benedett
813 26th Street, Southeast
Auburn, Washington 98002**

GRF:GEL:seo 535 66 22 36

Dear Mrs. Boyd:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Private First Class Walter Boyd. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

**Mrs. Marion Boyd
459 Chapel Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23504**

GRF:GEL:seo 229 76 17 71

Dear Mrs. Mills:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Lance Corporal Gregory S. Copenhaver. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Mary E. Mills
Maple Hill Trailer Park
Lot 41
Fort Deposit, Maryland 21904

GRF:GEL:sec 215 56 49 39

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Garcia:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Lance Corporal Andres Garcia. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mr. and Mrs. Matilde Garcia
212 East Rose
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

GRF:GEL:seo 585 72 03 06

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Jacques:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Private First Class James J. Jacques. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Jacques
179 West Cedar
Denver, Colorado 80203

GRF:GEL:seo 524 84 79 25

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Loney:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Lance Corporal Ashton N. Loney. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mr. and Mrs. Fitz R. Loney
162B Dudley Park Apartments
Albany, New York 12210

GRF:GEL:seo 212 76 07 23

Dear Mrs. Maxwell:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Private First Class James R. Maxwell. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Eula L. Maxwell
Box Three
Center Ridge, Arkansas 72027

GRF:GEL:see 432 19 39 85

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Rivenburgh:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Private First Class Richard W. Rivenburgh. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mr. and Mrs. Milton L. Rivenburgh
4573 Acoma Avenue
San Diego, California 92117

GRF:GEL:see 547 98 28 64

Dear Mrs. San Miguel:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Private First Class Antonio R. Sandoval. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Irene R. San Miguel
310 Cumberland
San Antonio, Texas 78207

GRF:GEL:seo 458 96 48 09

Dear Mrs. Turner:

I have learned with great sadness of the death of your son, Private First Class Kelton R. Turner. All America shares your loss, and the deepest sympathies of our fellow citizens will forever honor your son'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 son has so tragically earned will sustain and comfort you in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

Mrs. Esther B. Turner
2111 Fifth Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90018

GRF:GEL:see 496 60 33 71