

November 2, 2006

Mrs. Dorothy Herzberg
32 Trinity Street
St. John's, NL A1E 2P6

Dear Mrs. Herzberg:

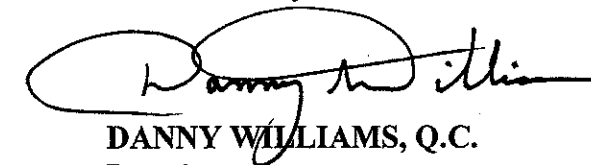
I was deeply saddened to learn that your beloved grandson, Eric, was tragically killed in Iraq on October 21 while serving as a Lance Corporal with the United States Marine Corps. He was so young, having turned 20 just four months before.

The tributes to Eric have been glowing and powerful. He is described by admirers as a young man of tremendous religious faith, a gentle spirit and a genuine desire to serve others. He was an impressive athlete with an affinity for rugby, football and wrestling, and a model soldier who was loved and admired by his peers. He joined the Marine Corps right out of high school, motivated by a sense of duty and compassion. He was fiercely proud of his Irish heritage, as are so many young grandsons and granddaughters of Newfoundland and Labrador who choose, as he did, to serve their country in uniform. And he loved his family deeply.

You must be so very, very proud of him and of the exemplary way he chose to live the years that he was given. Twenty years seems far too short a time to make a lasting impact, but he has definitely made an enduring impact on all who knew him and on others who wish they did. He gave his life in a courageous attempt to bring security, safety and stability to a region of the world where families enjoy so little of either. Out of compassion for those he did not know, he sacrificed all he had to give a gift that they cannot repay. What more noble a legacy could any individual leave? His is the hero's life that legends are made of.

I know your heart must be broken over losing him, but I trust that you will find comfort from the faith that guided Eric in his life and from the expressions of sympathy that you and your loved ones are receiving from near and far. We as Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are holding all of you close in our thoughts and our prayers at this sad time.

Yours sincerely,


DANNY WILLIAMS, Q.C.
Premier