



22 March 2007

Dear Mr. Herzberg,

It is with a heavy heart that my wife, Annette, and I offer our condolences as you cope with the loss of your son. There are no words, no matter how eloquent or sincere, that will make your grief any easier to bear, but we do want you to know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Eric's selfless service, especially in this time of war, speaks volumes to his strength of character and upbringing. He chose to live a life characterized by sacrifice and infrequent reward; to defend America and her people; and to protect those freedoms, both here and worldwide, upon which this country was founded. Eric was the kind of Marine who gave generously of himself, and his personal example of integrity and selflessness was an inspiration to everyone who knew him. Our Nation and the Marine Corps honor both his selfless service and the great sacrifice you and your family have made to protect the freedoms and values we cherish. This knowledge can in no way compensate for your loss, but I hope you can take some comfort in knowing that his patriotism and devotion to duty serve as an inspiration to his brothers in arms.

The Marine Corps is indeed a family that takes care of its own. You may trust that your family of Marines will be there for you as well. We stand ready to support you in any way possible.

With deepest sympathy,

James T. Conway

General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

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