

1 November 2006

Dear Mr. Herzberg,

I am writing to offer my condolences to you and to your family. I know there are no words from me that can replace Eric your life. I'm truly sorry for his death. Please know that his loss was also deeply felt in this Battalion. He was an important part of this team and his memory lives on in our hearts.

Eric was widely respected and constantly demonstrated his care and concern for his fellow Marines and Sailors. He was a funny, witty, and cheerful young man who always maintained a positive outlook on life. You always walked away from him smiling because of something he said or did while you were with him. He loved being a Marine and wanted to know everything about the infantry. An exceptional Marine, his selfless actions and bravery during combat duty in Iraq exposed a deep and abiding faith and strength of character that inspired us all.

Eric's memory lives on in our hearts. The extraordinary courage that he demonstrated in the service of his country inspired those of us who knew him. Please know that our freedom rests upon the courageous character of men like your son. We loved him and we all miss him dearly.

Please accept my deepest condolences and my pledge that I will do everything possible to assist you and your family. I stand ready to support you, just as you supported your son during his service to his country and to the Marine Corps.

With Deepest Sympathy,



TODD S. DESCROISEILLIERS
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines

Mr. Eric Herzberg
8109 Shoal Creek Drive
Laurel, MD 20724