

Dear Herzberg family,

First of all I would like to say I'm sorry. I'm sure you've heard that thousands of times by now, and maybe it doesn't mean as much, but I mean it sincerely. I can't even begin to imagine what it was like for you, what it's like for you to go through this kind of thing. I won't pretend to understand what it's like to lose someone special, someone you love so much. But I'm guessing it takes a great deal of bravery and courage to do what you all have done. One of my favorite quotes read "courage isn't having the strength to go on, it's going on when you don't have the strength." By this definition you are some of the bravest people in this world.

I would also like to say thank you. Thank you for your sacrifices. Thank you for sharing your story with us.

Stories like these are a great reminder that we are not invincible. That every day people die for our country and for our freedom, and it's not something we should forget.

I hope that I never forget because I know that you won't.

I hope you know that it wasn't for nothing. That the life lost, tears shed, pain suffered has not been pointless. Some times it's hard to understand why such terrible things happen to such good people.

Sometimes the "why" gets lost within the hurt, but it's there. The impact you've made is tremendous. The impact you've made will never go away. I'm sure that if Eric was still here, he would be so proud.

Sincerely,

Eliana Hardy