

14 Sept 2008

To Michael Reagan and Eric Herzberg:

Sir, please pass this onto Mr. Eric F. Herzberg, who I met at SEC 60 of Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday. And thank you for volunteering all of your time to create these fallen heroes' portraits. That is so kind of you and I can't imagine how much comfort this brings to these grieving families.

Mr. Herzberg : I wanted to let you know that it was a pleasure running into you and your wife on Sunday, Sept 14th at Arlington Cemetery. Please allow me to once again pass along my sincerest sadness about the passing of your son Eric. I can't imagine what it must be like to lose a child this way. But I wanted to take this opportunity to pass along my thanks to you for assisting Mr. Reagan with his portrait missions. That is truly kind of both of you, and I cannot express to you how heartwarming these efforts make me feel. I do still vividly remember watching the Memorial Day network news segment on Michael's work - I remember almost shedding a tear, touched by the generosity and dedication behind his work. Answering emails and administrative inquiries should free up a lot of time for Michael to continue his volunteer portrait drawings of these fallen service personnel - I'm sure this must take up quite a bit of your free time, but I can tell that this has been a labor of love for you.

Like I mentioned to you on Sunday, I know 2 personnel of my own there in SEC 60 - Luke Wullenwaber and Jon Grassbaugh. I was at both of their burials and vividly remember both. They were sad occasions, yet proud spectacles at the same time. However proud I am of knowing these gentlemen, though, sadness is ultimately the lasting memory when I think back on the dark days when I learned of their fatalities. However, I want you to know that the sadness is alleviated when I learn of the efforts of you and Michael. The sun becomes brighter and the grass appears greener when I think of the care and love that you two have proffered on your mission behind these fallen personnel's portraits. I mentioned to you on Sunday that I consider all of my fellow fallen brethren in SEC 60 to be heroes, but I wanted to let you know that I consider you and Michael to fall into that category as well. You two have been heroes to these families, and America can never repay you for your efforts. I will forever be touched by your collective dedication. In America's darkest times you have brought comfort and light to those who needed it the most.

Once again, I am terribly sorry about the loss of your son Eric. I know that you must still grieve greatly for him, but take comfort in knowing that your assistance is touching people all across the country, and the world. The establishment of the scholarships and tributes are moving enough, but the work behind Mr. Reagan's mission is just breathtaking. And certainly, all of these commendations double over for Michael Reagan, the man who is ultimately responsible for this most noble of endeavors. This nation owes both of you a debt of gratitude that can never be redeemed. I am forever touched, and humbled by your efforts.

With best regards,
CPT Edward Liu
Maryland Army National Guard