

GV5-20:VJH:glb
Ser: 035
13 January 1967

CAPE A. W. SLIFER, USN
Commanding Officer
USS GRIDLEY (DLC-21)
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif. 96601

Dear Captain Slifer:

I have just finished writing a letter of condolence to the next of kin of the man who suffered mortal wounds on 6 January 1967 on board USS GRIDLEY, of which you are the Commanding Officer.

I am the Catholic Chaplain who attended William J. Duggan, when he was brought aboard USS BEMINGTON. Since he was Roman Catholic, I administered last rites as soon as he was brought aboard. Moreover, on 9 January 1967, a Catholic Memorial Mass was held in the Ship's Forecabin for the repose of his soul. A substantial number of men of USS BEMINGTON were present on this occasion.

Our prayers are with you all on the USS GRIDLEY, for having lost one of the members of your Navy family.

Very respectfully,

V. J. Maritato
V. J. MARITATO
LCDR, CHC, USN

Encl: Copy of letter to next of kin.

Copy to: Mr. Paul A. Duggan