

I know that no words of consolation, no matter how sincere can take the place of your beloved William. One thought, however, that you can cherish in the sad days ahead is that he gave his life honorably doing his duty for his country and in support of a mercy mission to save the life of someone else, a pilot who had been shot down.

The Bible says "Greater love hath no man than that he lay down his life for that of a friend." Your son William's action transcended that - he gave his life for a person he did not even know.

With deepest and heartfelt personal sympathy, I am

Very truly yours,



ALLEN W. SLIFER
Captain, United States Navy
Commanding Officer