



**COMMANDING OFFICER
HELICOPTER COMBAT SUPPORT SQUADRON ONE**

2 February 1967

Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Duggan
3951 Lyndora Street
Lynwood, California 90262

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Duggan,

The tragedy that struck the squadron on 6 January 1967 left our hearts heavy and sad, and I know that your sorrow is even greater and deeper. To offer you the sympathy of every man in the squadron is a proper gesture, but I assure you it does not adequately express our sentiments. No variety of words could ever relate to you the desire we have to share the burdens of your broken heart and the depths of your sorrow.

As you know, we held a memorial service as our final gesture of thanks to Bill for the work that he did. Bill chose to serve his country as a member of the United States Navy. This did not seem enough for him as he went on to choose Naval Aviation. A choice which requires more than is normally asked of a man, and he did this because he knew that he could serve his country more. He could help save lives of his fellow men, and for this; we, the Navy, and the Nation salute him.

The fact that Bill lost his life while under my command is and remains my sole responsibility. There are many who would like to share this responsibility however; his shipmates, other Navy men and many officials and patriotic citizens of our country. Although they cannot share this, rest assured that all of them will never forget that your son gave