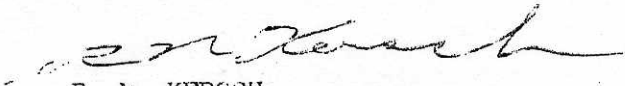


his life while in combat against the enemy so that we, as a nation and as individuals, can continue to enjoy the freedom we know. To me, Bill will always be the highest type of hero - a shining example for all of us. I hope and trust that you see him in the same light and that it is some consolation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. M. Kersch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

R. M. KERSCH
Commander, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer