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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 29, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On January 15, 1961, a NORAD radar station in the Atlantic, "Texas Tower #4," tragically succumbed to a winter gale and tumbled into the ocean, taking with it the 28 men who served on board. These men, all volunteers, have never received the recognition they deserve for their sacrifice. Fortunately, a crewmate of theirs, Don Slutzky of Germantown, Maryland, has been tireless in his efforts over the last several years to bring these men—and the sacrifice they made—to our attention. We write today to bring them to yours.

Texas Tower #4 was one of a series of off-shore radar installations that monitored the skies for possible Soviet attack. The crew was composed of fourteen Air Force and fourteen civilian personnel. They all performed their missions under the same dangerous conditions and all made the ultimate sacrifice. Yet existing awards did not recognize that sacrifice equally.

In light of the tragic nature of this accident, the importance of the work which they performed, and the selfless devotion to country which each of these men displayed, we respectfully request your consideration of an appropriate recognition of these volunteers who gave the last full measure for our country. We believe a letter from you to their families expressing the nation's gratitude would be a fitting and just recognition of their loved-ones' sacrifice. Names and addresses are attached.

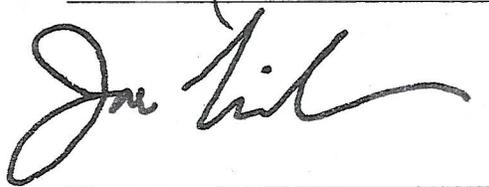
Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
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Jim F. Kerry

  
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Robert A. Mendenhall

  
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Robert Mendenhall

  
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Don Slutzky