

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

January 10, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

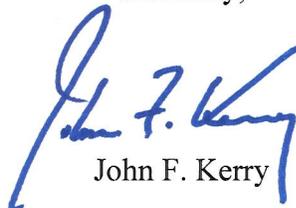
On January 15, 1961, a NORAD radar station in the Atlantic, "Texas Tower #4," tragically succumbed to a winter gale and tumbled into the ocean, taking with it the 28 men who served on board. These men, all volunteers, have never received the recognition they deserve for their sacrifice. Fortunately, 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. I 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 a 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, I respectfully request your consideration of an appropriate recognition of these volunteers who gave the last full measure for our country. I 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 last known addresses are attached.

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

Sincerely,



John F. Kerry

TEXAS TOWER #4- 15 January 1961

Next of Kin

Mr. Samuel Buccheri
E. Boston, MA

Mrs. Sandra Hoelzl (daughter)
56 South Road
E. Kingston, NH 03827

Mr. Chester J. Cudnik
Port Chester, NY

Mrs. Diane Dudas (niece)
52 South Street
Danbury, CT 06810

Mr. Anthony Opalka
Byram, CT

Mrs. Angelina Opalka (wife)
8 Carolina Place
Greenwich, CT 06831

**Captain Lewis V. Barker
Ohio

Mrs. Cathy Day (daughter)
5508 Kenbridge Drive
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143

***S/SGT. John R. Bradstreet
PA

Mrs. Kimberly Bradstreet Shaw (niece)
17 Lincoln Ave.
Somers, NY 10589

A/2C. David K. Parker
Lake Junv-Luska, NC

Mrs. Janet Webb (sister)
1242 Crymes Cove Rd.
Waynesville, NC 28786

S/SGT. Kenneth H. Green
Newburg, NY

Mrs. Vivian Birdsall (sister)
8204 Kensington Square
Jacksonville, Florida 32217

T/SGT. Donald R. Wait
Michigan

Mr. Darrell R. Wait (twin brother)
390 E. Grand River
Williamston, Michigan 48895

^M/SGT. Roald Bakke
Valley Stream, NY

Mr. Hans Bakke (brother)
304E Torquay Ct.
Ridge, NY 11961

A/2C Louis M. Laino
PA

Mrs. Jeanette Laino (wife)
403 S. Arthur Dr.
Edgewater Park, NY 08010

**Killed TT#2, 24 Nov. 59

***Lost at sea TT#3, 6 Mar. 59

^Not lost at sea (remains recovered)

TEXAS TOWER #4 January 1961

Next of Kin

A/2C. Domenic V. Giurastante
Dorchester, Ma

Ms. Adele Giurastante (sister)
100 Cove Way, Unit #409
Quincy, MA 02169

Mr. David W. Abbott
Malden, MA

Mr. Donald Abbott (son)
208 Bryant St., Apt. #6
Malden, MA 02148

Mr. Aram Haroutunian
Medford, MA

Mrs. Alice Haroutunian
101 Capen St.
Medford, MA 02155

*Mr. Arsen S. Haroutunian
Medford, MA

Mr. Robert Haroutunian (son)
101 Capen St.
Medford, MA 02155

Mr. William C. Ide
Plymouth, MA

Ms. Diana Ide (daughter)
88 Billington St.
Plymouth, MA 02360

Mr. Vincent G. Brown
Hull, MA

Ms. Marilyn Brown (daughter)
36 Whitehead Ave
Hull, MA 02045

Mr. Edward T. Robertson
Medford, MA

Mrs. Mae Robertson Farrow (daughter)
3824 Wanda
Ammon, Idaho 83406

Mr. Vincent A. Yavorosky
Saco, ME

Ms. Deidre Yavorosky (daughter)
70 Whitetail Drive
Ithaca, NY 14850

S/SGT. Wilbur L. Kovarick
Lindenhurst, NY

Aubrey A. Woosley (son)
2639 E. Kenwood St.
Mesa, AZ 85213-2639

Captain Gordon T. Phelan
Los Angeles, CA

Mr. Larry Phelan (son)
Linda Phelan Recollet (daughter)
151 Liberty Hill Rd.
Hardy, Arkansas 72542

*Killed TT#2, 16 Aug. 55

TEXAS TOWER #4 – 15 January 1961

Next of Kin

Mr. Thomas J. Evans
Staten Island, NY

Mr. Tom Evans (son)
Staten Island, NY

^M/SGT Troy F. Williams
Lake City, Florida

Mrs. McManus (daughter)
1013 Grinnell St.
Key West, FL 33040

Mr. Milton D. Leo
Staten Island, NY

Bob Leo (son)

Mr. Raymond D. Martel
Biddeford, ME

Robert Martel (son)
12 McKenney Dr.
Biddeford, ME 04005

Mr. Henry Schutz
Teaneck, NJ

Mr. William Smythe
Montauk, NY

**C.W.O. Owen L. Morgan

Ron Orth (son-in-law)
537 Center Point Drive
Center Point, Texas 78010

T/SGT. Bishop O. Foster
Brakes Branch, Charlotte, VA

S/SGT. Harry M. Shaffer
Pleasant Mt., PA

Mike Shaffer (son)
1009 W. Independence St.
Coal Township, PA 17366

A/1C William E. Krause
Waterbury, CT

A/1C Larry V. Woolford
WV

Connie (Woolford) Garcia (wife)
5834 Allison
Houston, TX 77048

A/2C Leland H. Jones
Oakridge, Tenn.

Jan Lundsford (wife)

**Killed TT#2-24 Nov. 59

^ Not lost at sea (remains recovered)