

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 5, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

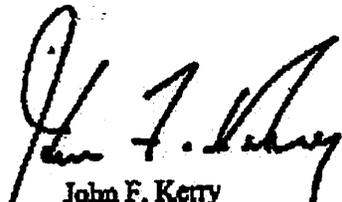
Dear Mr. President:

We have recently been in contact with the families who lost loved ones on the Texas Towers on January 15, 1961. We are writing to ask you to consider providing Presidential recognition of these brave individuals who died in the line of duty. According to the family members, the Federal Government has not officially recognized the sacrifice of these 28 Americans, many of whom were civilians who are not eligible for existing Cold War service recognition programs.

As you may know, Texas Tower 4, one of the early-warning platforms to detect a bombing or missile attack by the Soviet Union, collapsed during a storm, killing fourteen Air Force and fourteen civilian personnel. Only three of the bodies were recovered. In light of the tragic nature of this accident and the importance of the work being performed by these twenty-eight men, we respectfully request your consideration of an appropriate recognition of this event, in order to express our nation's gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response,

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry
United States Senator


Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator

10/8/1