



21 August 2006

Dear Mr. [REDACTED],

On behalf of the Officers, Chiefs and crew of Coast Guard Cutter HEALY, please accept my condolences in the unfortunate death of your daughter, Lieutenant Jessica Hill. We share with you a profound sense of loss and are at a loss to explain how such a vibrant life can be taken at such a young age.

Jessica served her country and our service with the highest sense of pride fully embodying the Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. As the Marine Science Officer, she proudly served as the critical link in coordinating highly complex science missions playing a vital role in HEALY's significant operational successes. This was a role she relished allowing her to skillfully apply the knowledge she had gained in achieving her Bachelor's Degree in Marine Science at the University of Western Alabama. Jessica also contributed to our successes in many other ways. She was a superlative Morale Officer. Using great initiative, she constantly amazed us in developing new and unique ways of keeping the crew's morale at the highest levels during long, challenging missions that took HEALY to the furthest reaches of the Arctic. Her passion for diving was unmatched. She eagerly sought any opportunities for HEALY's dive team to conduct diving operations. Under her leadership, the team conducted many successful dives that were essential to ongoing scientific research and also to support other Coast Guard units who required diving assistance. Finally, Jessica fully honored the term "shipmate" – a term that is very important to the Cuttermen who serve honorably in the Coast Guard cutter fleet. Her energy and enthusiasm for all we do was contagious. Her constant smile and sense of humor were infectious always uplifting fellow shipmates in any situation or time of need.

Jessica will be missed as we have lost someone who was instrumental in making HEALY's crew the close knit family that it is. Our ship would only be a cold steel hull if it didn't have the right people onboard to truly make it a successful cutter. Your daughter was one of those right people. Although terribly saddened by the loss of our shipmate, we are all grateful that we had the opportunity to serve with Jessica – to have her as part of the HEALY family.

Please know that we will honor Jessica's memory by continuing to operate with honor, respect, and devotion to duty in all that we do as she would expect of us.

Very Respectively,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which has been redacted with a thick black line.

Douglas G. Russell
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer
USCGC HEALY (WAGB-20)

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