

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
HATO REY, PUERTO RICO

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

January 31, 1986

Professor Charles Foley
Principal
Concord High School
Concord, New Hampshire

Dear Principal Foley:

The proverbial dedication which we teachers are expected to exhibit—dedication to our students as symbols of the future of any nation—was forever raised to unsurpassed levels of heroism by that young colleague of yours, the unforgettable Christa McAuliffe.

When it was announced that a teacher would be chosen as the first civilian to accompany the crew in a space flight, it brought understandable pride to all of us in the profession, everywhere in the world. When it was revealed a woman teacher had been chosen, it gave immense satisfaction to all of us women who—in every country of the world—have dedicated our lives to the sacred mission of educating the young. One thought of the inspiration the space trip would instill in so many teachers and in so many students. One thought of those early, dangerous ocean missions from Europe to a "new world", when almost always several educators would travel with the explorers to bring back news of an expanding world. Now—with Christa McAuliffe—a teacher was to come back with news of an expanding universe.

Tuesday, when our smiles turned to tears as the whole world saw on television the first great tragedy to befall these conquistadores of outer space, I could only think of your students, particularly those who knew Professor McAuliffe well, those who had learned from her. And I also remembered my students in our little mountain town of San Lorenzo, which rests among the highest peaks in Puerto Rico. The teachers were the models they had to build a fruitful future. How much greater a model, not only to her students but to all children in all nations was Christa McAuliffe to become after her historical feat. Now she is an unforgettable model forever, so the children of Concord, of the United States, of the whole world, may learn that tragedy must not quash our hopes in the future progress of humanity, but, on the contrary, reaffirm our resolve to use science to reach, everlasting progress and everlasting peace.

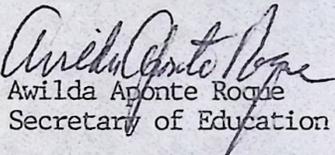
Professor Charles Foley

Page 2

January 31, 1986

On behalf of 700,000 children in the public schools of Puerto Rico, on behalf of our 35,000 teachers, allow me to tell your students and your teachers and the whole community of Concord that in this small Island in the Caribbean we feel your sorrow and we share your hopes.

Cordially,


Awilda Aponte Roque
Secretary of Education

25% GOTTEN FIBER
SOUTH MOUTH CO. U.S.A.
RACERASE BOND