Mr Charles Foley

Principal

FROM:

WOODY B. TSOSIE

BOX # 354

CHAMBERS AR 12 86502

Wide Ruins Community Chapter
Wide Ruins (Navajo Nation) Arizona 86502
January 30, 1986

A Letter to Concord, New Hampshire Community, Principal Charles Foley, Concord High School, Steven, Scott and Caroline McAuliffe.

On behalf of the Navajo Nation Community and students from Wide Ruins Community Chapter to the community and schools in Concord, New Hampshire to console the grievances and sorrowful of a brave astronaut teacher, Sharon Christa McAuliffe for we, as the people of this small community expressing ourselves by sharing condolences and sympathy to the family of Christa's husband Steven and her children Scott and Caroline. This despaired feelings was deeply grievances and sorrowed which was effectively to our beloved children students in the entire nation especially those who associated with the schools (teachers and students) at Concord, New Hampshire. This experience was too painful of a feeling to witness a horrible spaceship explosion and the lost of (7) seven astronauts crew members. There was a citizen school teacher who was included with the other (6) six astronauts in shuttle Challenger Flight 51L who were Francis R. Scobee, Commander; Michael J. Smith, Pilot; Judith A. Resnik: Ronald E. McNair; Ellison S. Onizuka; Gregory B. Jarvis and we are sending our condolences and sympathy to their families, parents, friends and the Nation who they were representing the shuttle Challenger spaceship when it had ended in explosion tragedy which the cause of explosion is still unknown. We, at this small community had experienced as witnesses with terribly shocked and stunned as the shuttle Challenger exploded on our live television on Tuesday morning on our time here in Arizona.

As I have indicated here in our small community which is located in Southwest of Arizona where our Navajo Tribe lives (the largest Indian Tribe) in the United States are originally governing itself with numerous schools in operating by United States Government, Districts, Privates and Churches. We are representing as a small community at Wide Ruins (Navajo Nation) Arizona that was set aside for Navajo Indian Tribe reservation by the Treaty of 1868 which is located in the portion of three states Arizona, New Mexico and Utah and the Navajo Tribe's population of the latest count is 160,000.

Space Program Continuation:

As one of the newspaper editorial indicated that Steven McAuliffe bravely stated the program should be continued with the manned space programs. We, representing from a small town have our thoughts that we shouldn't arreared ourselves to competing with other powerful countries to get ahead of our nation on outer space programs or N.A.S.A.

President John F. Kennedy gives his thoughts of implementing manned spaceship "man on moon" should go on to exploring into outer space as pioneers for the future references and to keep our nation strong. The people at our community are in all concern and despaired from the incident that happened in the past. The incidents were as follow: assassinated President John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King and the other incidents of our present leaders President Ronald Reagan and Pope John were shot which caused all their brave heroes involved in these incidents that was equivalent of the shuttle Challenger's explosion experienced on January 28, 1986.

The explosion of the shuttle Challenger had seven (7) hero astronauts who were killed in it. All of these losted heroes should never by forgotten as pioneers who were exploring the outer space. In this natural feelings and concerns of our students as well as citizens have witnessed the horrible tragedy of Challenger 51L spaceship. We all are in deeply expressing sorrow of what happened in modern time of the spaceship program. Hopefully, the corrective action can be taken prior to the next space flight. We are hereby to share with you the condolences and sympathy alone with the President of United States Ronald Reagan, Our First Lady Nancy Reagan and other leaderships in the world. We must unite together to go on regardless what the cost maybe to improve our nation in the years to come. We, as the Wide Ruins Community also sending the condolences and sympathy to all spaceship crew members who were killed in the Challenger of their families, parents, friends and the community of the nation as well. We are proud of our heroes who will never be forgotten as the brave astronauts and they were so anxious on exploring into the outer space as pioneers.

The community and students expressed their feelings toward the experience which they had witnessed of the lost shuttle spaceship on what the astronauts are trying to prove themselves to the world and competing with the other countries who can do a better progress. Our feelings toward the hero astronauts will never be forgotten and probably as a good example of teaching methods. We are too concern of our students here at our Navajo Nation which hopefully the explanation be done in some extend to our young generation. We have numerous schools in operating that are representing our small town community within our school systems. The following schools are representing for our community children: Head-Start, 25 students (age 4 years); Bureau of Indian Affairs Boarding School, 280 students (K-5th grades); Puerco Unified District 18 School, 910 students (K-12th grades); and all of these schools will be a representative from our community Wide Ruins, Arizona which we are so proud as being the largest Navajo Indian Tribe in the Navajo Nation.

We feel that we would like to share the concerns and despairs of the lost beloved citizen astronaut teacher Christa McAuliffe with you as a community and the school where she was well represented as a teacher in this modern time. Also within the state of New Hampshire especially the Concord citizens where Christa was a teacher before becoming a candidate for space program which had ended her life as a brave first teacher astronaut hero. We will never forget Christa as a pioneer because at no time her expression of feelings were being afraid of the preparation for space trip during the flight in shuttle Challenger Flight 51L to outer space. We, as people of this Navajo Nation have been wondering how she must have felt of herself in the morning of January 28, 1986 on the spaceship she was just about to travel into outer space journey for the Challenger was indicated as A-OK condition until the flight had exploded. The whole nation's feeling were stunned and questionable of what went wrong after the lift-off within the time of 74 seconds. We, as the Wide Ruins (Navajo Nation) Arizona community felt a deepest sorrow moment of our life time that we witnessed the lost beloved friends and heroes of Christa McAuliffe and the other six (6) hero astronauts. The cause of the Challenger's explosion is still unknown for we only can share the griefs with you and to condole and sympathize for those who lost their loved ones to the families, parents, friends and the world. We are standing behind with whatever it takes to console and mourn of our hero space astronauts who were in the space shuttle explosion. We should never forget their names in the history as explorers.

I, Woody B. Tsosie, retired U.S. Army Veteran of Korea, Lebanon, Vietnam, the President of Wide Ruins Community Chapter, Board of Education, Puerco Unified District School, Indian Education Committee commended this letter on behalf of all Navajo Tribe to share with you everything that I've expressed to you as the principal of Concord High School, community, students and Christa's family, Steven, Scott and Caroline McAuliffe. This letter will be sent forward to the other six (6) astronauts crew members, families, parents, friends and N.A.S.A. Space Center Staffs. I personally have had an experienced with the hazardous during my assignments of peace and wars but not the comparison of feelings toward witnessing the space shuttle explosion. In time of wars, you've prepared yourself on facing whatever needs to be done. I felt so deeply sorrowed when I had witnessed during the time of President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

I will conclude this letter and try our best to comfort and ease the feelings of our lost beloved heroes as the brave pioneers.

Thank you for your time and please find the time to read our letter with the feelings of concerns and consoling the grievances of the terrible space craft incident. If decided to contact, please call the chapter's telephone number (602) 652-3223.

Woody B. Tsosie
Chapter President
Wide Ruins (Navajo Nation) Arizona 86502