

Dear Mr. Haley,
This is a message for the students
of the so hart hit High School,

Gerard KOUWENHOVEN
"Le Soleil d'Or"
20, boulevard Rainier III
MONACO (P.té) ☎ 93.50.95.17

Monaco, Tuesday 29th januari 1986

Dear American Friends !

Enclosed newspaper-page belongs to your school.

It is one of the thousands of different pages which now, all over the world, tell the story of your brave teacher.

A story which ended so sad, so cruel and so unbelievable that all of us want to cry it out : "That should not have happened"

God however intended something different. We don't know why. She badly wanted to teach you young Americans, how great it is to participate in the space-research. How proud you can be about the incredible achievements of your astronauts and the scientists that enabled them to perform miracles.

Your teacher was indeed a very special woman. She felt privileged, selected out of more than 11.000 volunteers , she was going to give the first out of space lessons by learning herself from own experience how great it can be to participate in a venture of such importance. Something to be so proud of.

Christa McAuliffe left the world, her children Scott and Carolin her husband, parents and friends. Christa left you and everyone who knew her loved her and admired her. But God called her.

I never met her, but I feel to-day that I lost a part of my own family. She and her 6 companions, Michel Smith, Dick Scobee, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis and Judith Resnik left us as heroes, full of confidence, determination and pride to do something great for their country and the world.

We thank them out of the bottom of our hearts. And you students of that school which had the honour to see Christa McAuliffe elected as the first woman in history to speak to you out of space, but which turned also into the first that remained in space, forever and ever, try to be also courageous. Christa wants that.

Remember her smile, her eagerness to present the American teachers, her joy and courage. Christa knew, that she was going to undertake a mission full of risks, hasards, and unknowns. But she did not hesitate and dared to confront that unknown, with the highest spirit, like her companions. Christa knew and knows now why God called her. She belongs to history, but occupies a most honourable position too !

And although it is extremely hard to understand that and all of us may believe and say, that that was not right, we still have to believe that her faith, her courage and her sacrifice was of such importance, that we should not rebel. Her lesson was clear.

Christa, has taught all of you, me, that unknown writer of this letter, somewhere in Europe, and mankind, that in order to progress and to do better one has to take decisions. Her great spirit can give you a tremendous motivation not to give up. On the contrary, through Christa's sacrifice, you, me and everyone on this world, should be motivated and feel stronger.

Be proud of being Americans, never give up. Christa taught that

with affection,
Gerard Kouwenhoven