R. R. #1 Sable River,
Nova Scotia B0T 1V0
Jan. 31, 1986

Poem

The Principal
Concord High School
Concord, N. H.

Dear Sir:

The tragic loss of Challenger and all its crew affects the world, but the death of Christa McAuliffe will have a very special impact on a small community such as Concord.

We were privileged to live for sixteen years in New England, and know the area well. Undoubtedly for this reason I have a special empathy for your country and her people.

I have the temerity to enclose my own small tribute to their memory. It is meant to express gratitude for their stalwart belief in the unknown, with indomitable courage to pursue their dream.

My heart goes out to you all.

Most sincerely yours,

Pauline E. Balfour

Enc. 1

# A Walk with Destiny

From darkness into light they strode
To catch the morning sun;
The shuttle waited silently
To take them on their run

Toward heaven's dome, a cloudless blue;
Below, the shining sea.
Six astronauts, and Christa too –
A famous company

All specially trained, who dared to take
Their mission to the sky –
Not for them to stay earthbound
To watch, while others fly.

A puff – a roar – the shaking earth –
The shuttle lifted free –
Cheers and tears, as people watched
The flight, a certainty.

Sixty seconds, fourteen more
They soared, a perfect arc –
The vapor trails concealed from eyes
The lethal blow – – a spark?

— — — — — — —

We weep for us, but not for them
As unknown paths they trod
With happy hearts, prepared to keep
Their destiny with God.

Jan. 31, 1986

Pauline F. Balfour
Sable River, Nova Scotia