

No other hardship in a time of war can compare to losing a family member or friend, and the grief is sometimes so overwhelming that it can take months, years, and even decades to say “good-bye.”

LANCE CORPORAL NATHAN WOOD | IRAQ | U.S. MARINE CORPS

The pain of losing friends and family members in wartime endures long after loved ones have died. Some often find that letter writing can be an essential part of the healing process.

LETTER FROM DeETTE WOOD TO HER DECEASED SON, NATHAN, MAY 30, 2005

Dear Nathan,

You have been gone for almost 7 months. Sometimes I still don’t believe it . . . Your name has been added to the Garden of Remembrance in Seattle. There are more than 8,000 names listed on this wall since WWII.

Not a day goes by that I don’t think of you. I never knew that love could hurt so much. There are so many things that spark a memory of you—a song, a boy in a baseball cap and baggy pants, a skateboarder. I wish I could spend another summer at the cabin with you.

I know that when you were there you were in heaven. When I think of you now I know that you are on the lake fishing with your friends and I know that someday I can join you. Until then little man I love you and I hold you close to my heart.

Love,  
Mom



Photo credit: Memorial Day dedication at Garden of Remembrance in Seattle, photograph by Ted Hammond

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