

April 11, 2003

Dear Children of Our Heroes,

This is a message, especially for you. It comes with a whole lot of love. It is a message to say that America feels sorry for the loss of your mommy or daddy, who was here for a little while, and is not here anymore. America understands how hard this must be for you. America is sorry for your loss.

While you are feeling sad about your mommy or daddy, there are some good people that can be there for you. People like your friends, your teachers, counselors, and the people you live with at home, are there to help you. It is OK to talk about how sad you feel. It is OK to cry. Big people cry too. This is called grieving. It is something that people do when they lose someone they love.

If I could be with you today, I would give you a hug and tell you how special you are, because it was *your* mommy or daddy who was in the war, helping to get peace in the whole wide world. And it is *your* mommy or daddy that is so special to everyone in America, that they are called HEROES. A hero is very, very special. Being a hero is the most special kind of honor that there can be, anywhere. This makes *you* a hero too, because *you* are the son or daughter of a hero mommy or daddy. I want you to know this, cause it is true.

As the days, and weeks, and months, and years, go by, you may have times that will be hard for you. Everyone, everywhere in America, will understand. Especially cause of what your mommy or daddy did to help America get peace. America will *always* remember your mommy or daddy, as a hero. America will always love them too. And you know what else? No matter where you are, or go, or live, you will always have our love in America. For *you* are very, very special, to all of us, everywhere, in America. You are our heroes today, and tomorrow. And you will be our heroes for, *forever*.

With Love,

America and Me

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