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Dear Jack:

Thank you for taking the time to write me. I occasionally receive letters from other Vietnam Veterans saying the same thing you do, I "told it like it was". This acceptance from my fellow veterans means more to me than any award.

Your letter now leads the pages of an album I will eventually pass along to my daughter.

I had flown various missions in support of the Black Widows. I was at Cu-Chi when most of their aircraft were damaged by a motor attack in Tay Ninh in 1967.

Dick Detra called me last week. I'm looking forward to meeting up with him at the Pacific Coast Air Museum in Santa Rosa for their annual Air Show.

I did a little research on the incident you described regarding aircraft 631. I'm enclosing an account from the A/C of that ship, Rick Gillespie. I had flown with him on many occasions. I gave him a call a few days ago and asked him if it would be OK to give you his phone number. He said, "No problem!" Be prepared, the guy can sure yack! We talked almost two hours. The other pilot on the Huey was Hubert Bankhead. He lost his leg due to the crash.

I make quite a few appearances these days talking about the Vietnam War. Most of the folks have seen Hueys in Vietnam movies but have no idea about the guys who flew and crewed them. I have a real "dog and pony" show complete with flight gear and weapons. I have also just completed a short film (12 minutes) that supplements my book. The film clips are actual footage shot from a Huey during the war with excerpts taken from the book and set to original music. It will be out in two weeks. I have been showing the almost final draft to various organizations that have invited me as a guest speaker. We will also be entering it in Short Film Festivals across the nation. I do this in hopes of having people better understand helicopter aircrews and the Vietnam Veteran.

Please feel free to call me anytime!

Best wishes to you and your family.



P.S. Rick Gillespie can be reached at [REDACTED] (get comfortable!)