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John P. Wheeler III

June 14, 1993

Ruth Coder Fitzgerald

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Dear Ruth,

It is now two weeks past Memorial Day. I am sorry it has taken me so long to get back to you, but our efforts have been delayed as we waited for news articles to reach us and for photographs to be developed. I'd like to thank you for your patience and I hope the delay has not caused you too much concern.

We received the photographs you sent and have enclosed a few of our own that we thought you might like to see. At this point, we have begun making calls to the local press in a much wider range of areas than we did for Memorial Day. We are also building a network up through veterans organizations and through other civilian contacts. I know I had mentioned this to you previously and I also know that we will definitely be giving you a call about it sometime soon as long as you're still willing to help us out with the legwork. Based on the note you sent with the pictures, it sounds like you are.

We have really appreciated all your help, especially your suggestions about different contacts. I really can't say too many times that *In Memory* is a young program and we rely on input like that to make it as accessible to other people as possible.

You might be interested to know that the Sioux City Journal ran an article on John. They seem to have picked the story up off the wire. We had not sent any press releases to Iowa until after Memorial Day when we posted one to the Des Moines Register as you suggested. In fact, I only found out about the coverage when someone wrote to us for information after having seen the paper.

More thanks for making the trip up to DC. I know it means a lot to the families who could not be here on Memorial Day that you were there with the Howlands and the Elderbaum family to

represent them. Your presence and the act of remembrance became an important part of the Memorial that day. The placement of the certificates was a visual statement that gave the Wall an even more profound meaning for all who visited and paused to reflect. We here certainly feel honored to have been a part of this tribute.

We know it has taken a long time, but we hope that the *In Memory* program will help you begin to heal, and to remember John's courage and service. Your devotion to his memory inspires us in our efforts to continue to extend the healing legacy of the Memorial. Thank you again.

Sincerely,


Marcy Meyer

P.S. Thanks to you
and your husband
for the photographs
Marcy.