

Dear Lance Corporal Eric Herzberg Jr,

This is a difficult letter to start and a difficult letter to write. My daughter and I are writing this letter to you together. She will be visiting your gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery with her class soon. We have never written a letter to a hero before. There are many words that are going through our minds, probably the ones that come to mind the most are thank you. And yet those don't seem to be enough. I can imagine as a parent the conflicting emotions your parents must have felt when faced with the knowledge you would be entering the Marines. The worry, the prayers I'm sure they spoke and most definitely the pride they must have felt. Knowing you would stand and fight not only for them, but for thousands of men, women and children you have never met because of the things you so strongly believed in. Sitting here writing you this letter we know you gave the ultimate sacrifice for those beliefs. To say thank you doesn't even come close to the gratitude we feel. You sacrificed everything so my family would have the freedom that we do. Your story, the pictures on your website touched us. I know when my daughter visits your gravesite she will have the words thank you going through her mind again. She will know that the freedom she enjoys every day is because of men and women like you. She will know what it feels like to stand amongst heroes. Thank you for the gift of freedom. We won't take it for granted.

Sincerely,

Sarah Olson & Gretchen Carlson