BOURQUE 60

ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

COLORADO 80840

2 November 1964

TO EACH GRADUATE:

It is with sincere regret that I must inform you of the loss of a fine officer and friend, Lt. Valmore W. Bourque, USAF, who was killed in action against the enemy in Vietnam on 24 October 1964.

Assigned to the 309th Troop Carrier Assault Squadron, Val was leading a three-ship C-123 formation on an aerial resupply mission to a small friendly camp deep in a Communist-infested jungle of the Republic of Vietnam. His mission was to parachute vitally needed ammunition and supplies to Vietnamese and U.S. Army Special Forces personnel who were expecting him. Val and his crew were exceptionally well qualified for this type mission and the C-123 aircraft they were flying was a type of unusual dependability; however, while preparing for their drop, a short distance from the camp, they were subjected to intense and concentrated enemy ground fire rendering their aircraft completely uncontrollable and causing an immediate crash. All aboard perished.

Funeral services for Val are being held at the Chapel of Our Saviour, Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, on 5 November 1964 at 1000 hours. Burial will follow at the USAF Academy Cemetery at approximately 1115 hours. The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, any caring to do so make contributions to the Christian Home for Children, 6 West Cheyenne Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The following addresses are furnished for your information in the event that you wish to contact the family.

Mrs. Linda Bourque (wife)
1424 Cheyenne Boulevard
Colorado Springs, Colorado

and

Mr. & Mrs. V. V. Bourque (father and mother)
381 Main Street
South Hadley Falls, Massachusetts

and

Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Jewett (Linda's parents)
1516 West Cheyenne Road
Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In closing I want you to know that I have talked to, and read letters from, many of the officers and airmen who knew and worked with Val. From their estimates of Val, I assure you that we each are diminished by his death, professionally as well as personally. Val's death, as the first USAFA graduate to die in combat, has for many of us vividly expressed what the Air Force Academy and the Air Force are all about: each man trains here as a cadet, puts on his uniform and bars, and spends his career living, fighting and, if necessary, dying for his country. The essence of duty, honor, country has now been fully expressed by one of our own. I trust that each of his compatriots will wish him well in their thoughts and prayers.

Regretfully,

Richard T. Mathews

RICHARD T. MATHEWS
Executive Secretary
Association of Graduates