GENTLEMEN, THIS CAPTAIN MATHEWS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATES. I WISH TO CONVEY TO YOU OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR YOUR PRESENCE HERE IN RENDERING FINAL TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT DONALD D WATSON, CLASS OF 1962. FURTHER, WE WISH TO THANK THOSE 24 CADETS WHO KINDLY ASSISTED WITH CHAPEL AND BURIAL CEREMONIES TODAY.

MY PURPOSE IS NOT EULOGIZE LIEUTENANT WATSON, THOUGH THAT COULD WELL BE DONE, SINCE IN A SHORT CAREER HE DID SO ABLY SERVE; AND ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO THE FACT THAT HE WAS INDEED AN OUTSTANDING OFFICER, PILOT, AND SOLDIER WHO GAVE, IN LIVING AS WELL AS IN DYING, HIS UTMOST EFFORTS.

RATHER MY PURPOSE IS TO ASSURE YOU THAT LIEUTENANT WATSON IS INDEED ONE OF OUR OWN, WELL WORTHY OF OUR RESPECT. WHATEVER THINGS HE ACCOMPLISHED IN A SHORT CAREER, ~~XXXXX~~ EVEN HIS DEATH ITSELF, ARE THE FACTS OR POSSIBILITIES OF OUR PROFESSION. THAT HE DIED AT THE HAND OF AN ENEMY IS UNFORTUNATE BUT TRUE. HIS F-100 DID NOT SURVIVE THE AIR-TO-GROUND STRIKE IN WHICH HE WAS ENGAGED AGAINST THE VIET CONG. THAT HE DIED SERVING US, AS WE SHOULD SERVE OTHERS, IS TO US BOTH A PROUD HERITAGE AND A FORMIDABLE CHALLENGE. NONE CAN GIVE MORE THAN HE. FEW WILL EVER GIVE AS MUCH AS HE--THAT IS, LIFE ITSELF.

GENTLEMEN, I SUBMIT THAT LIEUTENANT WATSON LEAVES TO US A LEGACY OF TANGIBLE DEEDS AND SERVICE WHICH OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT AND EXAMPLE AS WE STRIVE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF OUR PROFESSION. WE ASK THAT HE BE REMEMBERED, IN THOUGHT AND IN PRAYER, AS ONE WHOSE DEATH DIMINISHES US, AS A BODY, YET INCREASES US BECAUSE HE DID GRACE US WITH THE QUALITY OF HIS SERVICE, SO SHORT AS IT MAY HAVE BEEN.

CARRY ON.