



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

October 3, 2009

To: The Family of Airman 1st Class Gary Pate

Mary and I wish to extend to you our deepest sympathy for the loss of your son, Airman Pate. There is no more difficult duty as Governor than to find words to ease the pain of a parent and family at a time of loss.

While I know many of you have waited for a long time to know the absolute truth concerning Gary and his fate -- the truth is difficult. Many of you face today with mixed emotions. While some might feel a sense of closure, we still have a void in our hearts that only Gary could fill.

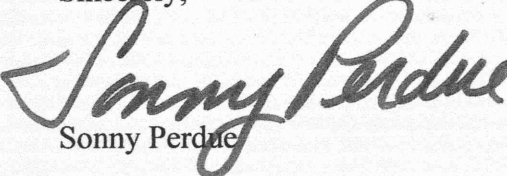
The Air Force never gave up the search for one of their own and I know your family never gave up the vigil for Gary's homecoming.

I have found great comfort in the words of Psalm 23, which reads, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

I pray that along with your faith and the support of the community, friends and family, you have found comfort in these long years reflecting upon the legacy that Gary leaves behind. He joins the airmen that reached out and touched the face of God, and God gathered him home. Gary is on the Roll of Honor of those who have made possible freedom for all our sons and daughters.

We are thankful for his life and sacrifice. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,


Sonny Perdue