



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 504<sup>TH</sup> PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, 82<sup>D</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION**  
**OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM**  
**APO AE 09384**

December 3, 2003

Mrs. Sarah Young  
906 Westridge Drive Apt. 307  
Junction City, Kansas 66441

Dear Mrs. Young,

On behalf of all soldiers of Task Force 1-504, I extend my deepest sympathy to you in the recent loss of your husband, Ryan.

Shortly after sunrise on the morning of November 8, 2003, Ryan was conducting an Alpha Company 1-16 Infantry route clearance combat mission as part of Task Force 1-504 along a highway approximately 20 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq. At 8:14 a.m. his vehicle was ambushed at a point near the Highway 1 and 10 intersection by enemy personnel. The enemy personnel used an improvised explosive device within close enough proximity of the M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle to inflict serious injuries to the personnel in the vehicle. Your husband Ryan showed great courage during this deployment. Unfortunately, Ryan passed on 2 December 2003.

Our Chaplain and I met with his fellow soldiers of A/1-16th who feel a great loss in losing a great warrior and friend. We paid a tribute to Ryan with a formal memorial service, and I can assure you his comrades will never forget him.

I hope that you can find some solace in the fact that Ryan died honorably serving our Nation on freedom's frontier, serving in the global war on terror.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. A. Hagen", is positioned above the typed name.

**MARSHALL A. HAGEN**  
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Army  
Commanding