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November 3, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, Jackie Pflug, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Jackie has come up with a great idea truly worthy of serious consideration, and she speaks from the heart and first-hand experience. Jackie wants to set a date to fly all U.S. Flags at half-mast in honor of the victims of terrorism.

On Nov. 24, 1985, terrorists took control of her plane. At the time, Jackie was a special education teacher at the Cairo American School. Ten minutes into EgyptAir Flight #648, three terrorists, calling themselves "The Egypt Revolution," hijacked her flight. A gun battle ensued as the terrorists took control at an altitude of 35,000 feet. The passengers were forced to land in Valetta, Malta. The terrorists began to execute one passenger every 15 minutes until their demands for fuel were met. Like four passengers before her, Jackie was shot at point blank range, execution style, thrown from the plane onto the tarmac and left for dead. For five hours, Jackie drifted in and out of consciousness until an airport grounds crew retrieved her on the way to the morgue. Fifty-nine passengers died during the ordeal.

Jackie earlier sent a letter to the White House, and I have enclosed a copy. This year marks the 20th anniversary of EgyptAir Flight #648. Jackie Pflug was on that plane, and she and the other passengers were some of the first victims of terrorism as we know it today.

Jackie has devoted her life to telling others about her experiences. Now she has come up with this great idea, a day of memorial observance for the victims of terrorism. Many thanks, Mr. President, and please let me know if I can ever be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

JIM RAMSTAD
Member of Congress

Enclosures

cc: Jackie Pflug