

"I had an 'angel tap' to say a prayer at the gathering, but had not prepared myself for it. The tapping has become louder, and it now has me up at 2:00 AM to respond to it. Here it is. Feel free to share it or not. I have done what I have been asked to do. Perhaps now I can sleep."

Jamie Emmer
Nephew, S/Sgt. John W. Emmer, Jr. (photographer)
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Dear Father in Heaven:

We have gathered together to celebrate the lives of the crew members of the "Heaven Can Wait." Our hearts are full of mixed emotions. Joy, that after 74 years, these men who once were lost, have now been found. Sorrow, that men who were so young died before they reached their full potential as sons, husbands, fathers, uncles, grandfathers, community members, and friends. Mystery, uncertain about who they really were, and what they were really like.

But we know that from where You sit, there is only Joy and Peace. To You, they were never lost, for You hold them in the palm of Your loving hand, then and now. To You, they had reached their full potential and met their appointed time, protecting something that You created, and hold sacred. To You, there is no mystery as to who they were and are.

I believe that because you are an all-powerful, loving and merciful God, You have a special place in heaven for those who died protecting this great country that You created and love, and have 'shed your grace on .' I find great comfort in this.

This experiment that you 'shed Your grace on' inspired our forefathers to put into human terms Your desire for man to live lives surrounded in the love, joy, and peace that comes from true goodness and true freedom. Compared with the current days in which we live, the blurred lines between this goodness and evil was much clearer to us in 1944 than it is now. But thankfully, to You, it is just as clear now as it was then.

So I thank You for bringing us together - not just to heal the pain of separation but to rediscover ourselves through a community of connection and relationships that we had lost over time.

Remind us through this reunion that because You sent Your Son to die for us so that we may live with You forever, Your love for this crew, and for us, is more powerful than any foe, and cannot be taken from us, not even by death. In this, we find great comfort and peace and are eternally grateful for Your sacrifice, and the sacrifice of the crew members of "Heaven Can Wait."

We pray this prayer in the powerful name of your Son Jesus, Amen.