

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan:

The knowledge that your five gallant sons are missing in action against the enemy inspires me to write you this personal message. I realize full well there is little I can say to assuage your grief.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I want you to know that the entire nation shares in your sorrow. I offer you the condolences and gratitude of our country. We who remain to carry on the fight must maintain spirit, in the knowledge that such sacrifice is not in vain.

The Navy Department has informed me of the expressed desire of your sons, George Thomas, Francis Henry, Joseph Eugene, Madison Abel, and Albert Leo, to serve in the same ship. I am sure that we all take heart in the knowledge that they fought side by side. As one of your sons wrote, "We will make a team together that can't be beat." It is this spirit which in the end must triumph.

Last March you, Mrs. Sullivan, were designated to sponsor a ship of the Navy, in recognition of your patriotism and that of your sons. I understand that you are now even more determined to carry on as sponsor. This evidence of unselfishness and of courage serves as a real inspiration for me, as I am sure it will for all Americans. Such acts of faith and fortitude in the face of tragedy convince me of the indomitable spirit and will of our people.

I send you my deepest sympathy in your hour of trial and pray that in Almighty God you will find the comfort and help that only He can bring.

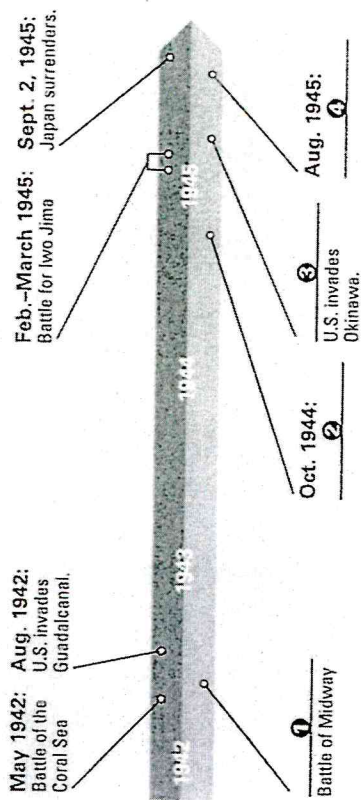
Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

1. Who wrote this letter?
2. Who was the letter written to?
3. Why was the letter written?
4. How did the country honor the family?
5. Should the Navy had allowed these brothers to serve together? Explain

Directions: Use the information on the time line and your knowledge of U.S. history to answer the questions.

The War in the Pacific



1. The battle of Midway took place in
A April 1942.
B June 1942.
C November 1944.
D January 1945.
2. What famous promise was kept in October 1944?
A The Americans avenged Pearl Harbor.
B President Roosevelt was elected to a fourth term.
C The Allies invaded Japan.
D General MacArthur returned to the Philippines.
3. The U.S. invaded Okinawa in
A January 1945.
B August 1945.
C April 1945.
D September 1945.
4. Which of the following events forced the surrender of Japan?
A the death of President Roosevelt
B the Allied invasion of Japan
C dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
D dropping of the atom bomb on Tokyo

5. Why was the Battle of Midway important militarily?

6. In what ways was August 1945 significant?