January 30, 1986

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I know I am unusually sensitive to death at this time, but I do want to thank you for the special decency and grace with which you have led the people of a nation still beset by the shock of these past few days.

Your remarks after the loss of Challenger, and at the Memorial in Houston today, were beautiful. We are so blessed to have a President who can help us to recognize our oneness with each other and with God, and to share our grief, even as we raise again our eyes to the future.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM E. BROCK

WEB: cb
Shall submit your address
The Board is anxious to know
where to send the
materials.

To whom it may concern,

Dear Sir, Please

February 16, 1986

B. Ball

Board of County Commissioners
North Carolina
Mecklenburg County

P.S. Please make sure you place the

E-462
just a small letter to say 
I miss you and love you

our revision of your poem
and you know

love

630 santos
Mr. Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
of America  
The White House  
Washington D.C.  

Mr. President,

In your address to the nation on the occasion of the tragedy at Cape Canaveral, you drew parallels between the loss of the lives of the crew aboard the Challenger and the death of Sir Francis Drake off the coast of Panama "390 years ago".

Sir Francis Drake was an English pirate, who delighted in the slaughter of the civilian citizens of the colonial city of Portobelo. Gold and silver were stockpiled in this Atlantic port, awaiting shipment to Spain. It was therefore a prime target for the greed-motivated expeditions of men like Drake. It was in an attempt to loot, destroy and ravage the city and its population of nuns, women, children and missionaries, that Drake was happily annihilated.

Because the legends of English pirates have always been romanticized in Anglo-American history books. I am not surprised to occasionally encounter this misconception. However, to further the credence of this gross inaccuracy in a presidential address, let alone compare the ambitions of a pirate to those that motivated our lost astronauts can only be the result of careless historical research. I respectfully suggest you reprimand those responsible.
I find the portrayal of a pirate as a figure of history to be admired and eulogized in your speech on the occasion of the deaths of seven genuine heroes, to be insulting to the memories of those astronauts and offensive to their families, as well as to the memories of those people massacred on that day in Portobelo and to all the people of Panama.

Respectfully,

Charles F. Brannan
Photo Editor/NY
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT