

December 2, 2023

Ms. Brenda Jones Washington, D.C.

Dear Brenda,

Jill and I, along with the entire White House, send our love as you mourn the loss of your beloved father, Robert.

Fathers are guiding lights, always there to shine a path forward to navigate all of life's seasons. I know that's especially true of your dad—a courageous war hero, a selfless public servant, and a true inspiration to so many people. He lived by the power of example, serving in war and in peace while using his pioneering talents to ensure embassies that raise the American Flag represent the beauty, pride, and strength of our Nation. His life is a story of meaning and purpose, one that inspired you to walk in his righteous footsteps. Jill and I are so grateful for your service in Congress and here at the White House.

Having taken care of our parents until the very end, we also know the enormity of your grief is particularly profound as his caregiver—the pain of being untethered from the parent who raised you, the loss of identity so closely tied with his, and the quiet milestones you helped him reach along the way. Your unwavering devotion to your dad, especially in the evening of his life, reaffirms the one thing that will never go away: your eternal love for him and his eternal love for you.

As you reflect on the gift of your time together and the preciousness of every moment you shared, I hope you remember how your presence—until his very last breath—made all the difference. The best parts of your dad will live on through you, Fath, and his grandchildren as you each carry his legacy forward.

Though the grieving process never truly ends, I hope that you find some measure of comfort in knowing that your dad's service and sacrifice on behalf of our Nation will never be forgotten. It will take time, but I promise you the day will come when the memory of your father brings a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye. My prayer for you and your family is that this day comes sooner rather than later.

With sympathy,