



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 4th Battalion, 227TH Aviation Regiment (ARB)
1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division
APO AE 09378

December 6, 2009

Carroll Elementary
Kindness and Compassion Club
c/o Mrs. Jennifer Bailey
1705 W. Continental
Southlake, Texas 76092

Dear KC Club:

I wanted to take a moment and thank you for the wonderful cards you sent my battalion. As a veteran of two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom I cannot tell you how uplifting cards and messages from great kids like you are.

Many times my Soldiers and I receive wonderful things from people like you, but you guys don't get too much from us. I thought it would be a great idea to send you something from Iraq, so I've included an American flag that I carried with me during a combat mission over Baghdad, Iraq. This particular flag was flown specifically for you guys on November 24, 2009 in aircraft #03-5365 by Chief Warrant Officer Greg Marotz and me. I've also included a certificate of authenticity and hope that you and your school will display them proudly.

This flag is a small token of our appreciation. After serving two tours in Iraq, one in South Korea and many places across the United States, I have learned that our flag stands for many things, to many different people. As I fly over Iraq I have realized that the U.S. flag is more than just our country's flag – the whole world see's it is a symbol of freedom and I hope that as you see this flag and other U.S. flags you take a moment to appreciate all the wonderful freedoms our country enjoys.

Again, thank you very much. Your support, kindness and compassion mean a tremendous amount to the American Soldier. Study hard, make good grades, and behave for your teachers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J. Garcia".

R.J. Garcia
Major, U.S. Army
Battalion Operations Officer