

All,

I wish to share my most sincere gratitude for your efforts to honor Greg's memory and to extend your grace to our children by performing such a selfless act. My family and I are in awe of your kindness and tenacity. I cannot begin to express the wave of emotions felt by my daughter and our family when I received Captain Adams' response to my request to buck the norm of requesting a flag flown in Washington DC by a congressman and instead to receive a flag flown with familiar distinction upon a ship supporting a NOAA crew. At this time, my son is unaware of your efforts. On Friday, when LTJG Picard presents the flag, I am certain he will share in our gratitude. This flag and your efforts will be, forever, cherished. I can understand why Greg valued NOAA as he did.

I understand this flag has had an extraordinary journey. It has traveled and been flown with breakneck speed, heartfelt respect, and unmatched care in an effort to complete an expedited tour once traveled by Greg. In support of your efforts, the flag will travel on after Brayden's graduation, fully completing its journey before it is sealed in a display that will overlook my son throughout his career. The display will also include the coin bestowed upon my son during his father's funeral and details as to its travels. I will be in contact with Captain Adams to determine the best route of delivery.

It brings me tremendous joy to know that while Greg will not be present to stand beside our son as he joins the Schweitzer family military legacy, his shipmates have gone above and beyond to honor his spirit and be an unwavering support for our children. Following Brayden's (AB B. Schweitzer) official enlistment ceremony, LTJG Picard will physically stand alone as a representative of NOAA, but he will be surrounded in spirit by all of you. As Brayden steps forward to join the ranks of our military, Greg too will be present within the spirit you have so graciously shared. It is impossible for two short and very simple words - thank you - to encompass the overwhelming gratitude felt by our family. Because of you, your gracious and nimble efforts, Brayden will feel his father's love and the care of the whole of NOAA each and every time he views this flag.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Tina Spencer