



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RALEIGH 27611

JAMES G. MARTIN
GOVERNOR

February 12, 1986

W. Thornton, M. D.
701 Coward's Creek Road
Friendswood, Texas 77546

Dear Dr. Thornton:

I want to thank you for your recent letter about the loss of your good friend Mike Smith. Both Dottie and I were deeply saddened by this great loss to our State of North Carolina, Mike's beloved home.

Dottie and I attended a special service for Mike in Beaufort and were able to speak with Mrs. Smith and other members of the family. We know that her loss is a difficult ordeal, but we hope that she finds consolation in knowing that thousands of North Carolinians share her sorrow with the passing of this North Carolina hero.

Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts regarding Mike with us. What finer tribute could any man have than to know that he has made "a true friend" during his brief stay here on earth?

Sincerely,

Jim Martin
James G. Martin