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Post Scripts

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THE AWARDS & THE ACCOLADES

It didn't take long for the word to spread about what the Freedom Fliers had accomplished. The reaction was overwhelming, and acknowledgements started pouring in. Letters of commendation were received from President Bush, Transportation Secretary Mineta, Mayor Giuliani, Senator Smith, Governor Kitzhaber and Governor Pataki, among others

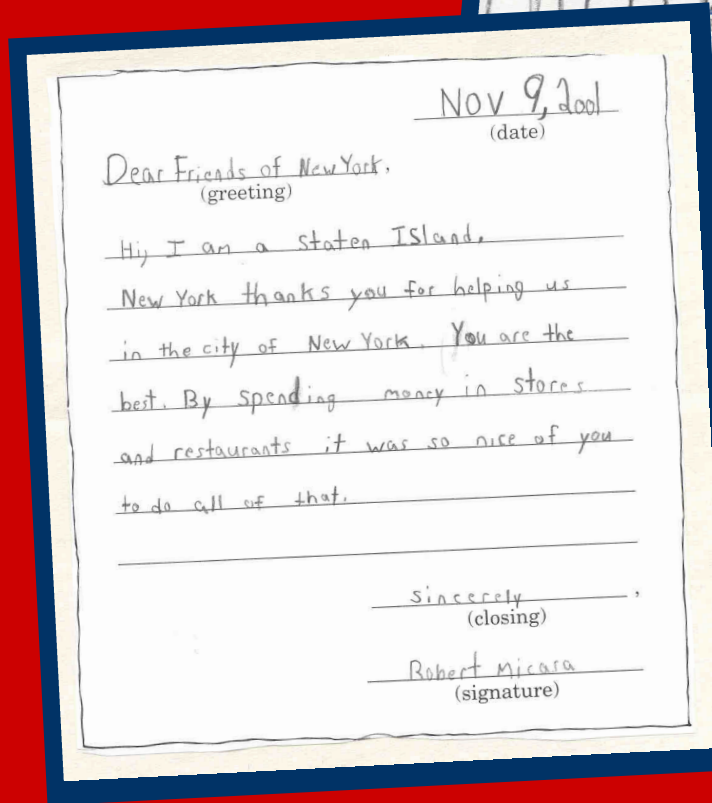
The Freedom Fliers and Sho Dozono, in particular, were presented with numerous awards, including the America Red Cross Oregon Trail Chapter's Humanitarian Award; the 2001 Mayor's Spirit of Portland Award; Governor's Freedom Award; and the US Pan Asian Chamber of Commerce Excellence Award in Community Service—just to name a few!

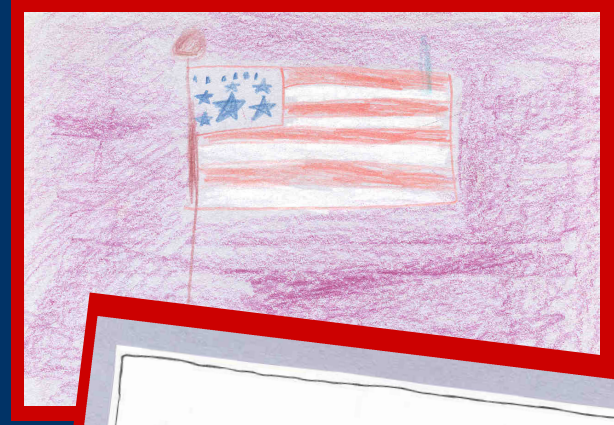
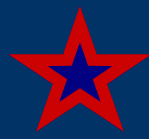
But for the participants and their organizers, supporters and all the volunteers who helped make Flight For Freedom happen, perhaps the greatest satisfaction came from simply knowing they had touched a life and made a difference. Said one New Yorker who had been deeply moved by Flight For Freedom, "I cried with humility when I saw the almost 1,000 Oregonians who came to Manhattan to share our sorrow. Then the joy set in that your visit was to help cheer us up. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

What greater reward than this?

THE KIDS

Staten Island grade school teacher Jackie Venezia wanted her class to write to the kind people who had flown 3000 miles to lend support to New Yorkers in the aftermath of September 11. She wanted to, but couldn't. Jackie lost her brother, Paul Barbaro, the father of two young sons, in the World Trade Center attack. Emotionally, she just wasn't able to manage the letter project, so her friend and fellow teacher, Denise Tessitore, took up the cause and had her class write the notes instead. Using pens, colored pencils, and crayons to express themselves, these brave little second graders crafted personal note cards to thank the Freedom Fliers. Then in May of 2002, Sho and Loen Dozono went back to New York and visited Denise's class. They placed a makeshift medal consisting of red ribbon affixed to an "Oregon Loved New York" button around the neck of each child. It was an emotional moment, indeed, as the children donned their new badges of courage, their faces beaming with pride. In June, teachers Denise and Jackie accepted an invitation to ride on the Freedom Train in the Portland Rose Festival's Grand Floral Parade.





11-9-01
(date)

Dear Friends of New York
(greeting)

Thank you for coming
Did you know that you
helped New York? The
more people that
come to New York
The more better!
Thank you for coming

Sincerely
(closing)

Steve DeValle
(signature)

Nov. 9, 2001
(date)

Dear Friends of N.Y.
(greeting)

We are from N.Y City. Thank you
for staying in a hotel and spending
money. You are the best people
in the world.

Sincerely,
(closing)

Nicole Gadaleta
(signature)





US Air Force photo courtesy of GeekPhilosopher.com

We will survive and pick up the pieces and go on!! We're Americans!!

Freedom Flier Joy Cavinta, Tigard, OR