

## IRIS Record

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**Abstract** Contains information on dedication of Spirit of Keesler (training facility) at Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), MS. Includes photographs and United States Air Force News releases.

**Descriptive Notes:** In personal collection of 2Lt Samuel R. Keesler, Jr. Some documents fragile. Total of six (6) each folders. DOCUMENT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM VIA UNCLASSIFIED NETWORK.

Major Command:

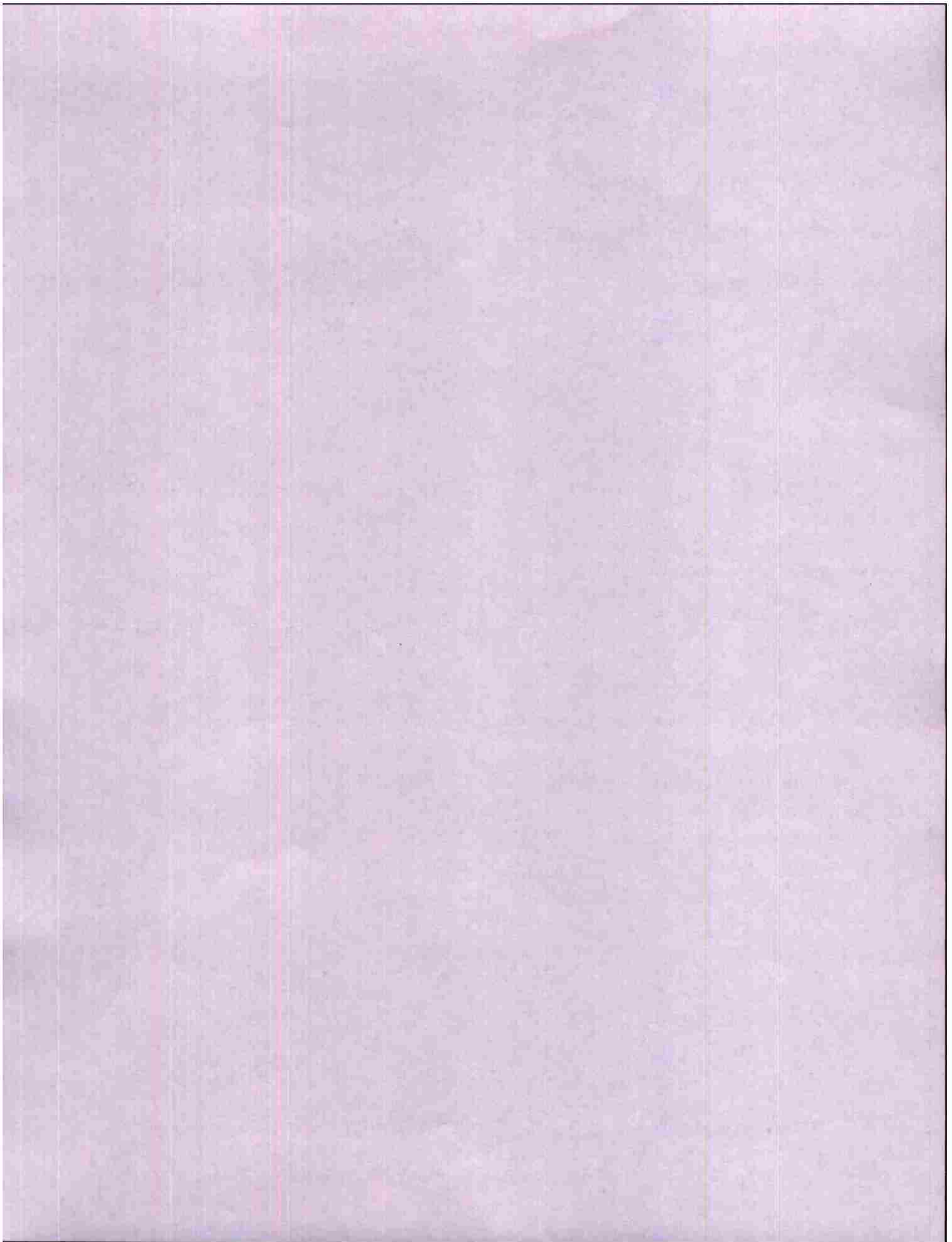
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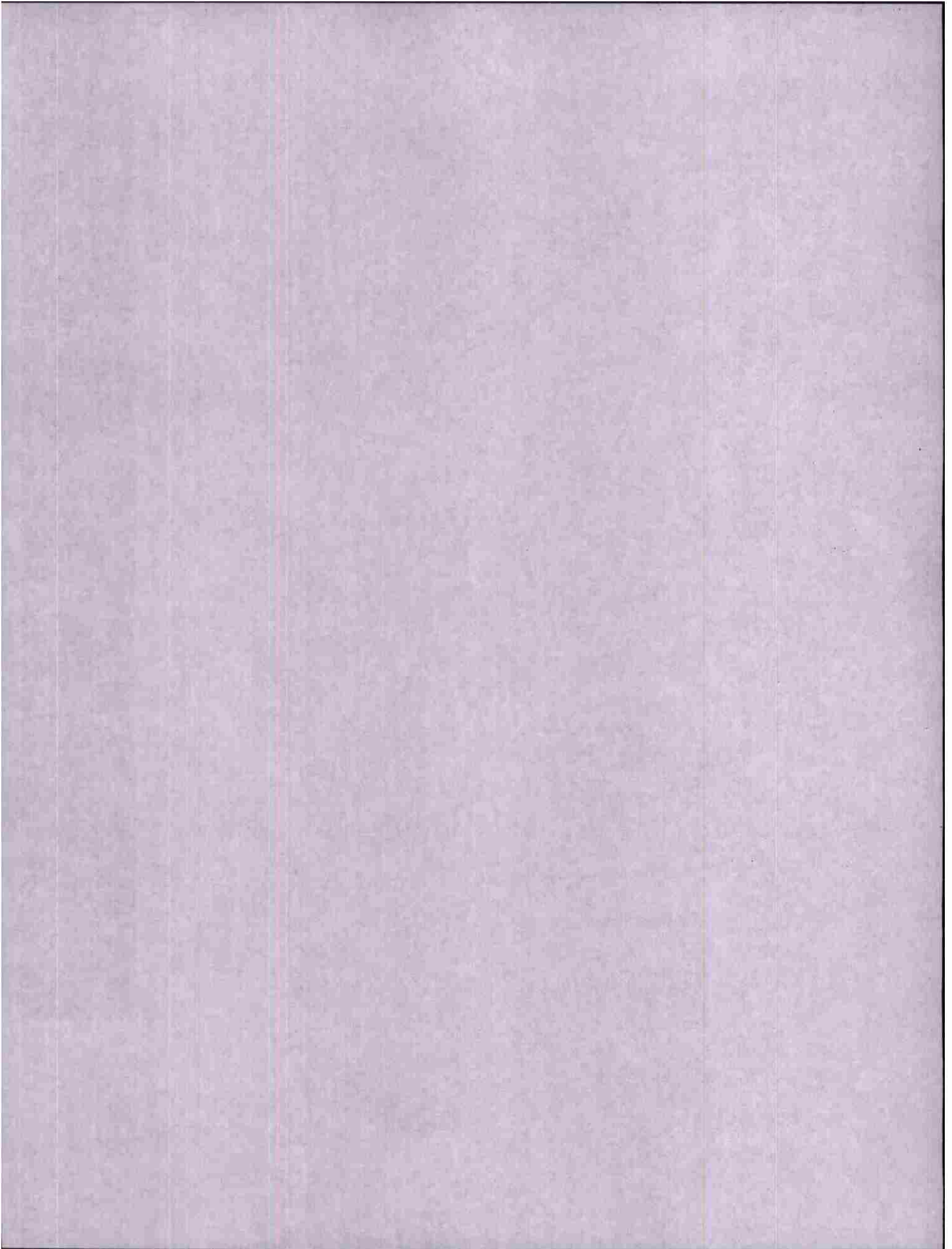
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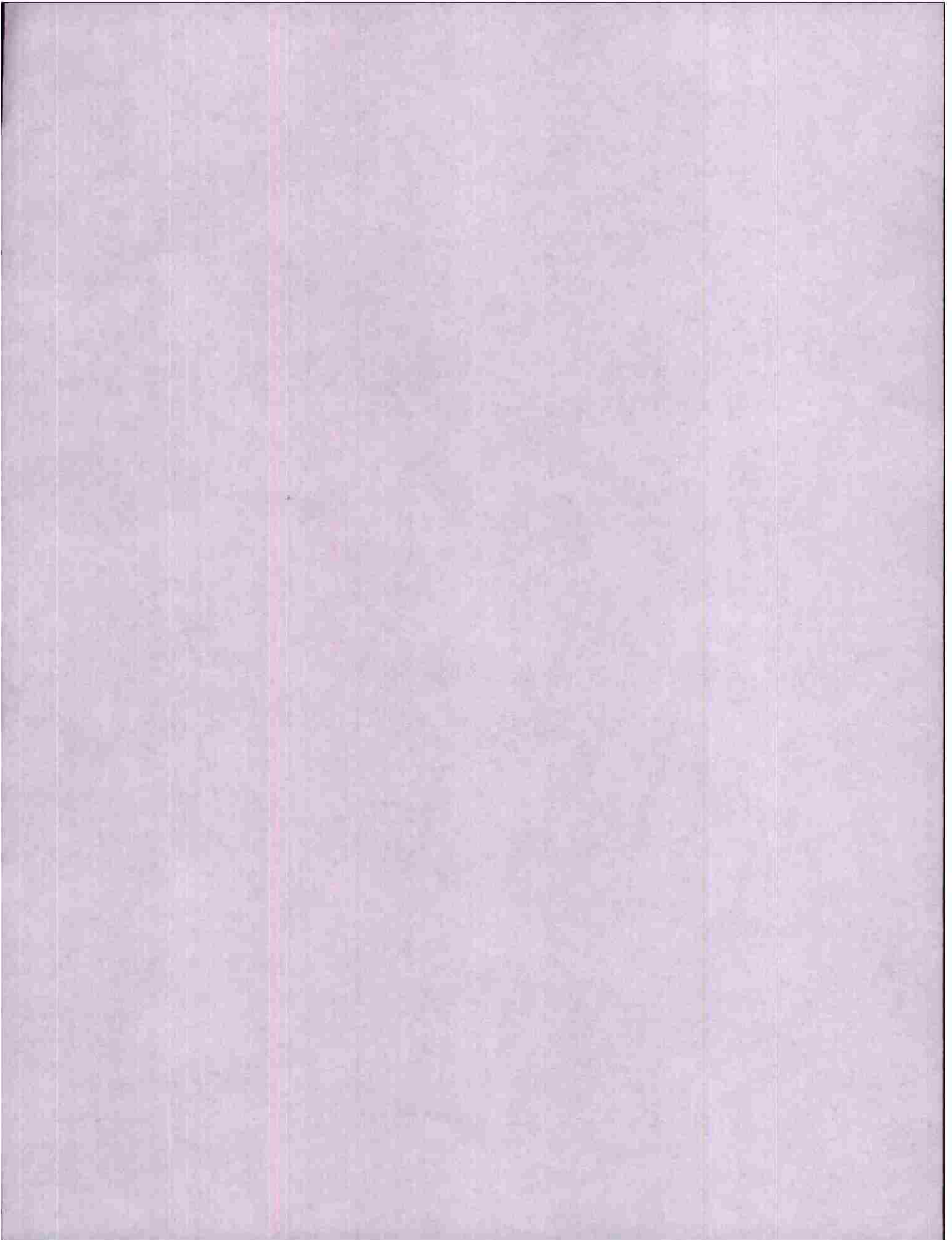
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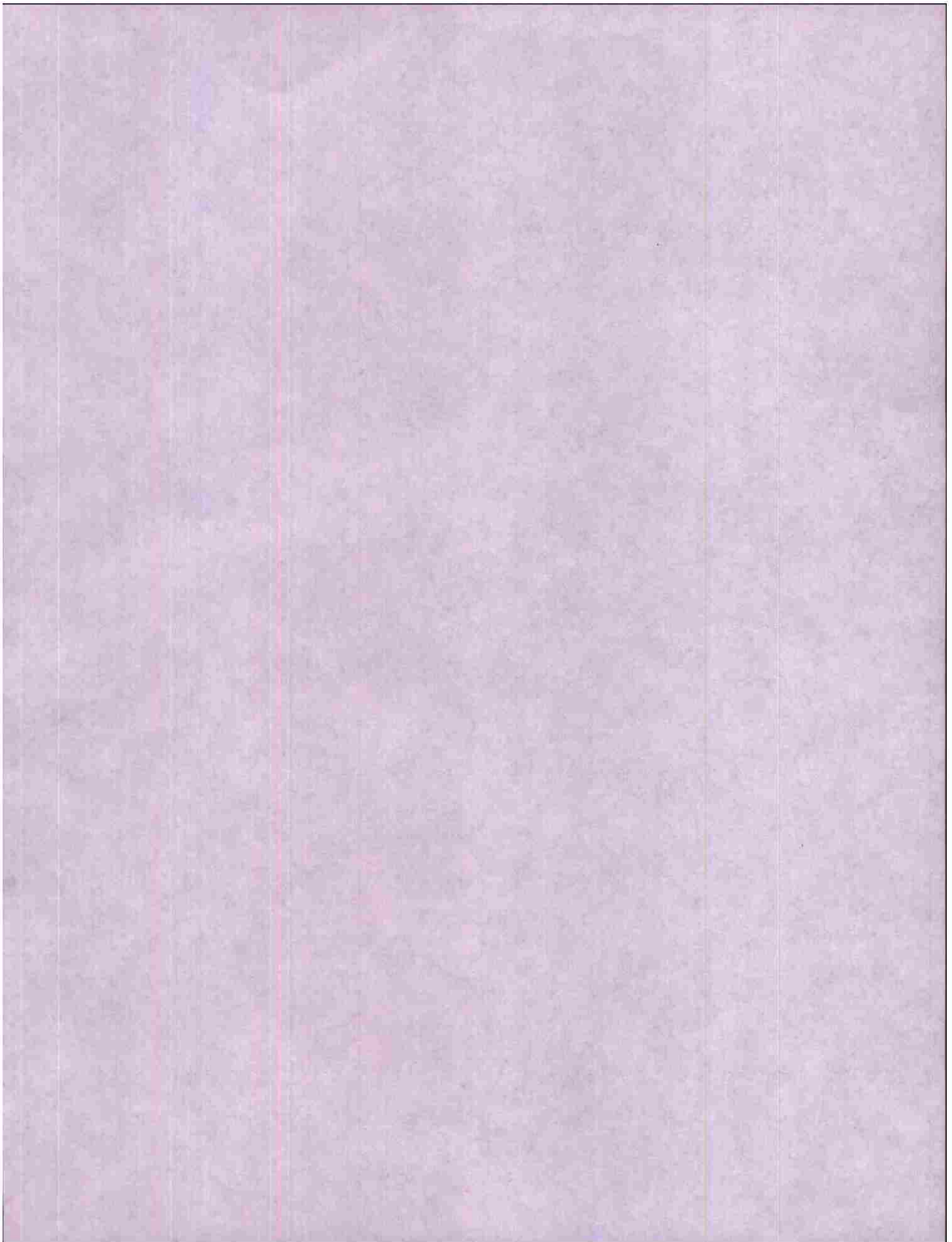
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**Negatives Index**

1. Keesler News Photograph
2. Heritage Display- Lt. Sam Keesler's Sisters
3. Spirit of Keesler Center Photographs by Sgt. Balcher
4. Unidentified





## DOCUMENT EXCEPTION SHEET

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Correspondence

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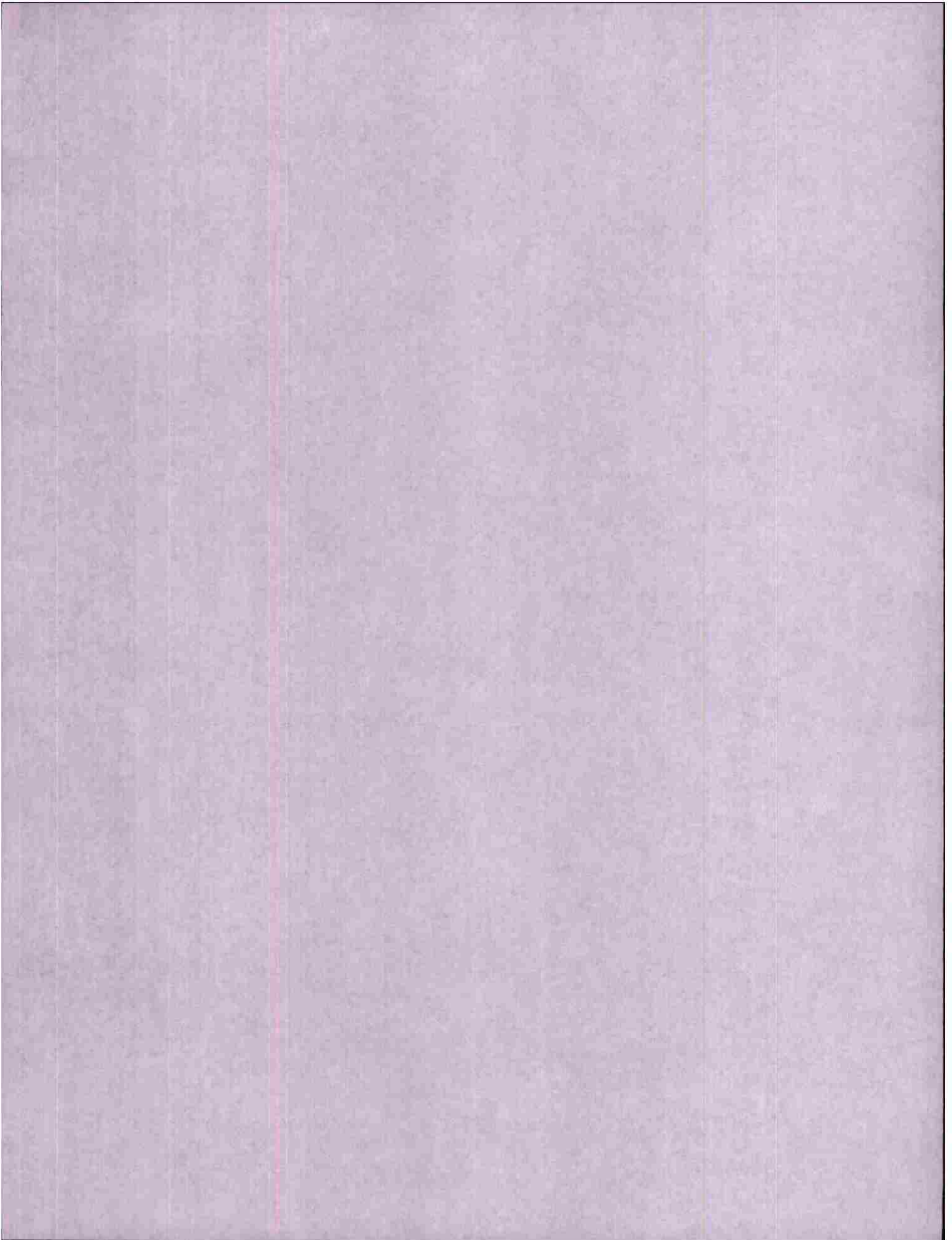
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Lieutenant Samuel R. Keesler,  
 21st Aero Squad, U. S. A.

### He Always Did His Best

At Senilly, about fifteen or twenty kilometers south of Verdun, on October 9th, somebody—probably the operation officer—wanted a plane to go out to reconnoitre the left half of the first army front. They were to try to find out where the lines were—I think the attack was to be resumed on our whole front that morning. Sam and a pilot named Riley were picked to go.

They went off at about 3 P. M. flying very low on account of the clouds and because they expected to find the lines by seeing our infantry men and not by picking up panels. They never came back.

As you know, I was with Sam from the time he left America until we left Châtillon to go to the front. Then, as I went out a few days earlier, he went to a different squadron. I wrote him where I was, but he couldn't get in, as we were not at the front at that time, and therefore not entitled to any more observers.

Through all this training period—and I am sure it must have been the same after he got to the front—Sam was the same lovable, high-minded boy that you knew. Being over here didn't harden or brutalize him. Rather it made him think more of his home, and held more sacred the things he had left there. You can always think of him as the same boy you sent away to fight for truth and liberty. Unless he was changed by a new self-sacrifice for others, something which may have developed more after he came to France and saw what some of the effects of war really were.

It goes without saying that he was popular. Since I have been here a lot of pilots and observers have been detached from the squadrons at the front and are waiting here for orders to go. So many have been sickened by the sight of Sam, and expressed a very great desire to be with him until they died.

of them were fellows who I did not think knew him at all.

I never saw a fellow who was more anxious to do his work well. A half done or poorly done mission didn't satisfy Sam. He wanted results, and wasn't content to be excused because a pilot had mismanaged the mission or a camera had gone bad.

Lieutenant Ledy often bragged about the way in which he did his work. Perhaps Sam might have come back from that last mission if he had not wanted to do his best. "His Best" must have taken him well over the lines at a dangerously low altitude. I imagine he was hit by a bullet or shell from the ground.

What I want to offer you is not exactly sympathy, for one offers sympathy to the victims of some dreadful calamity. Rather I want to congratulate you on having such a son—a soldier who died at the front taking desperate chances to answer the call of duty. He was no victim of a calamity; he made his choice and went to the front willingly, even happily. If he were my brother I would wear a gold star for him, but never black. He did not die as men die in peace times, seeing death afar off and waiting peacefully while death approaches. Sam disregarded death because there were other things more important—things worth dying for if necessary. When he died he must have died suddenly and without suffering. It was nothing that no minister was with him to help him make peace with God; Christ himself was with him, and he had lived at peace with God all his life.

In one of his speeches Pershing said: "Let your valor as a soldier and your conduct as a man be an inspiration to your comrades and an honor to your country."

Consciously or unconsciously Sam fulfilled the requirements of that speech—Extract from a letter by Sgt. Gilchrist, First Lieutenant, Air Force, U. S. A.

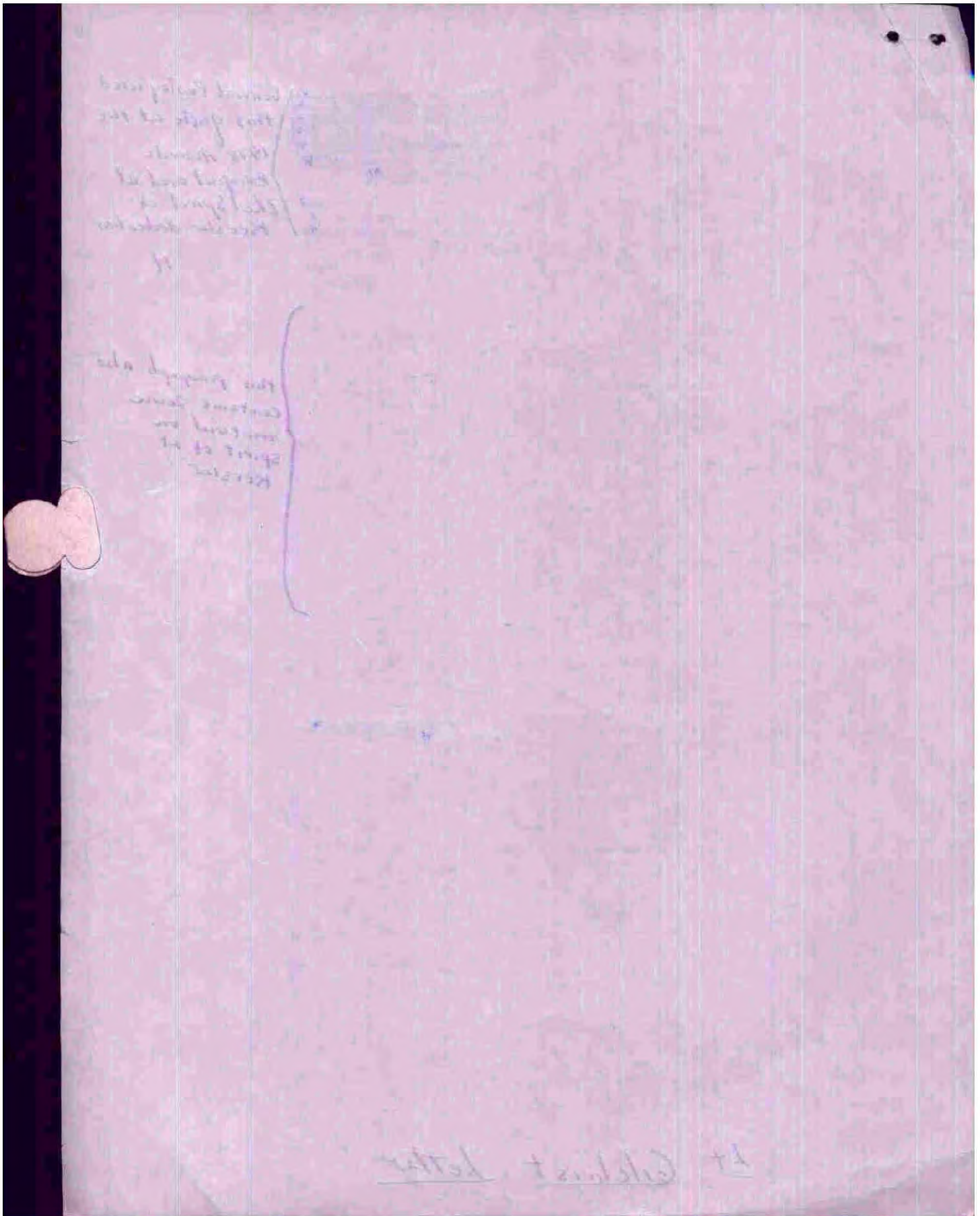
General Postay used  
 this quote at the  
 1978 Awards  
 Banquet and at  
 The Spirit of  
 Keesler dedication

H

this paragraph also  
 contains some  
 material on  
 spirit of Lt  
 Keesler

Lt Gilchrist Letter







AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES  
U.S. AIR SERVICE, PARIS.

France, January 13th. 1919.

From: Lt. Lieut H. W. Riley, 24th Aero Squadron  
To: Chief of Air Service, American E. F., (Three channels)  
Subject: Distinguished conduct of 2nd. Lieut Samuel R. Keesler,  
observer, 24th. Aero Squadron.

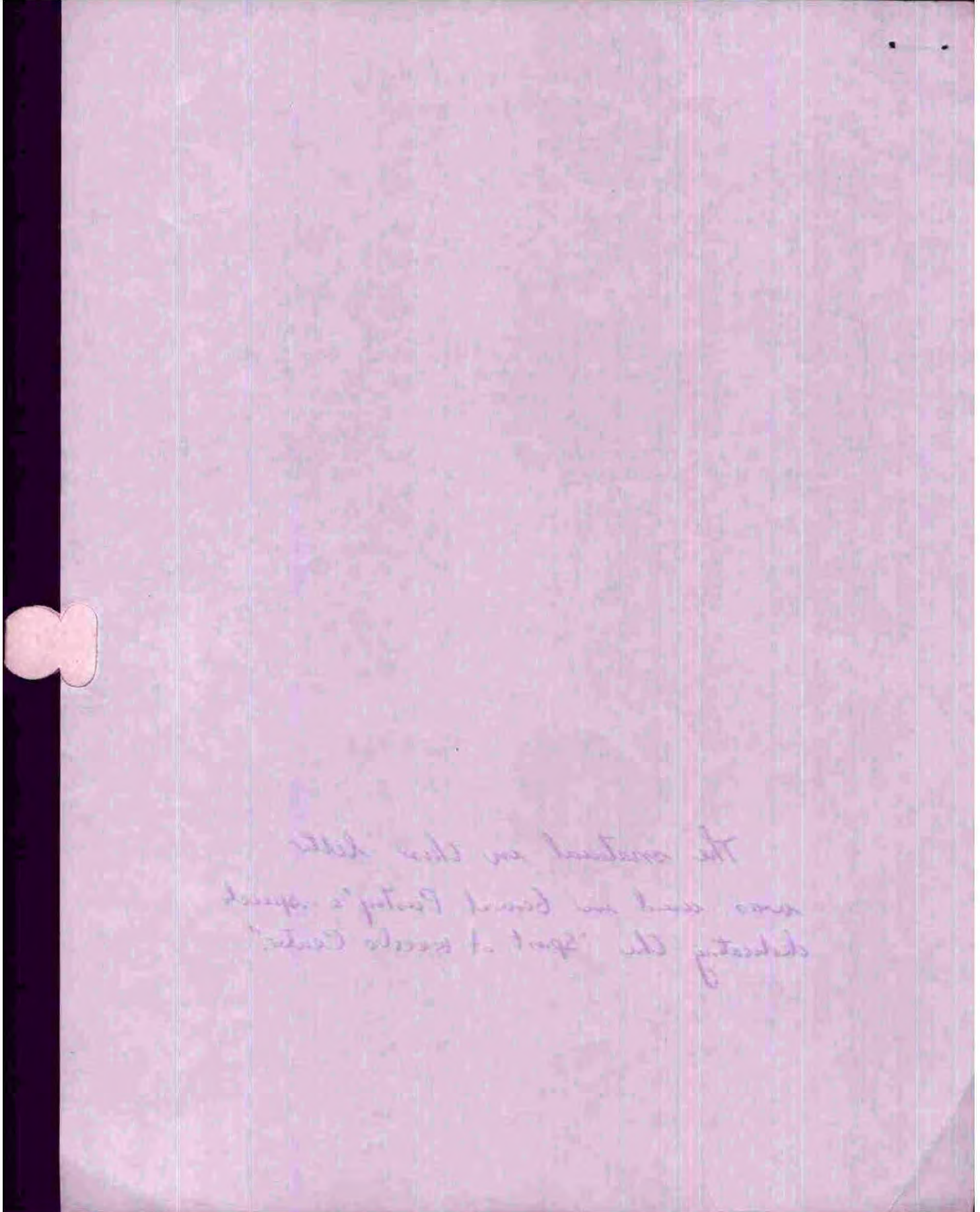
1. In the late afternoon of the 8th. of October, 1918, Lieut. Keesler and myself were on a mission east of Verdun. Shortly after we crossed the lines and just before we had covered the assigned territory, four Fokkers came from the French side of the line and attacked us. I am certain Lieut. Keesler shot down the leader as he attacked first, and I saw him go down in a steep nose dive. The other three F.A. opened fire immediately and crippled one aileron, shot away my rudder controls and part of my elevators. Lieut. Keesler fired all the down and after we crashed, although he had been shot three times thru the chest and three times in the abdomen. The three Foks hung over us at a low altitude and kept firing after we were clear of the wreck. Lieut. Keesler was hit in the hip before we could get under cover. From 5:15 until 12:00 that night, when we reached a dressing station, Lieut. Keesler received no medical attention and although he must have suffered terribly, he showed wonderful self-control and won the admiration of all the German soldiers who came to look at him. Lieut. Keesler died the following noon.

2. Lieut. Keesler's conduct was a grand demonstration of the morale of our Air Service and I hope it will not go unrecognized.

(Signed) Riley.

*The material in this letter  
was used in General Pustay's speech  
dedicating the "Spirit of Keesler Center."*





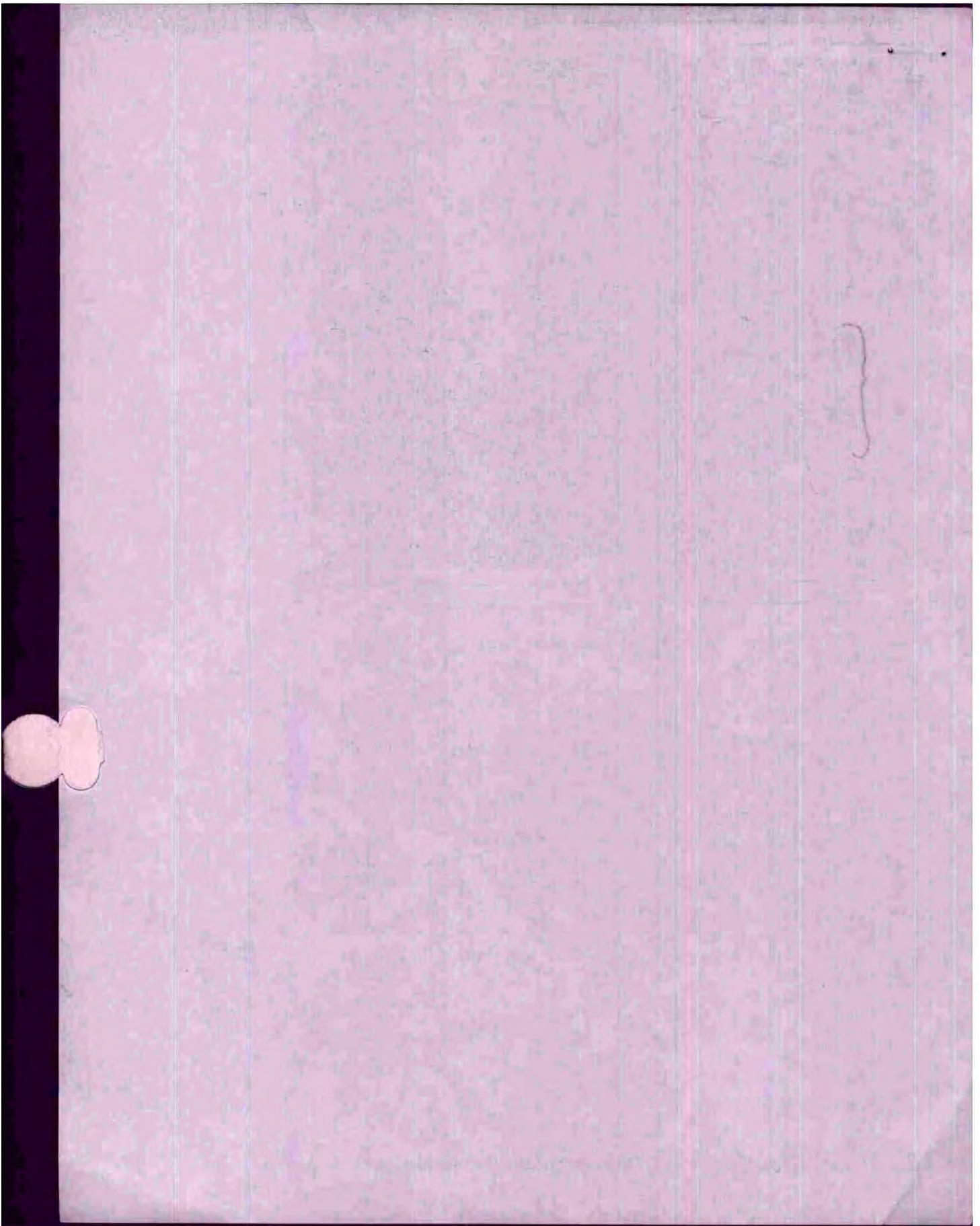


4th Ind.

Hq. 24th Aero Squadron, 1st. Army Obs. Group, February 9th. 1919, To: 1st. Army Air Service Commander, 1st. Army, American H. Q., (Baron Post Commander)

1. The above has been as fully investigated as conditions will admit.
2. Lt. Riley and Lt. Keesler were lost while on an Army command plane mission from Scully on the afternoon of the 8th. of October, 1918. Nothing was heard from them until on or about the 7th. of December, when I received a postal card from Lt. Riley dated November 7th. telling that he was a prisoner in Germany and that Lt. Keesler had been killed.
3. The attached correspondence completes our knowledge of the affair.
4. In view of the attached communication, I strongly recommend that the Distinguished Service Cross be awarded Lt. Keesler, (posthumously). Lieut. Keesler was a man of sterling qualities and was greatly admired in this squadron for his devotion to duty. The award of the D.S.C. would be a worthy and fitting memorial to the memory of an aviator, whose loss occurred while fighting to the last, in accordance with the best traditions of the Air Service.

HARRY T. WOOD,  
Captain, Cav., U.S.A.,  
Commanding.







**CHARLES REES JENKINS**  
Charleston, S. C.

B. S.; Eu.; K A

*pleasure in life is the sense  
recharging one's duty."*

going to be a famous M. D.  
for if working will get a man  
this fellow will certainly suc-  
ciligent and thorough student.  
er seen idling away his time.  
es in turning his golden op-  
into account for the future.  
him talk is to know his na-  
he possesses that twang char-  
of all pure Charlestonians.  
red, kind, thoughtful, stu-  
great stickler for duty, and  
—all this is Rees—a real man.  
is needing such as he, and is  
be benefited by him.

y-Treasurer Class, 1916-17;  
ment Marshall; Class Bas-

**SAMUEL REEVES KEESLER, JR.**  
Greenwood, Miss.

A. B.; Eu.; B O H; S T; St. CECILIA  
GRYPHON

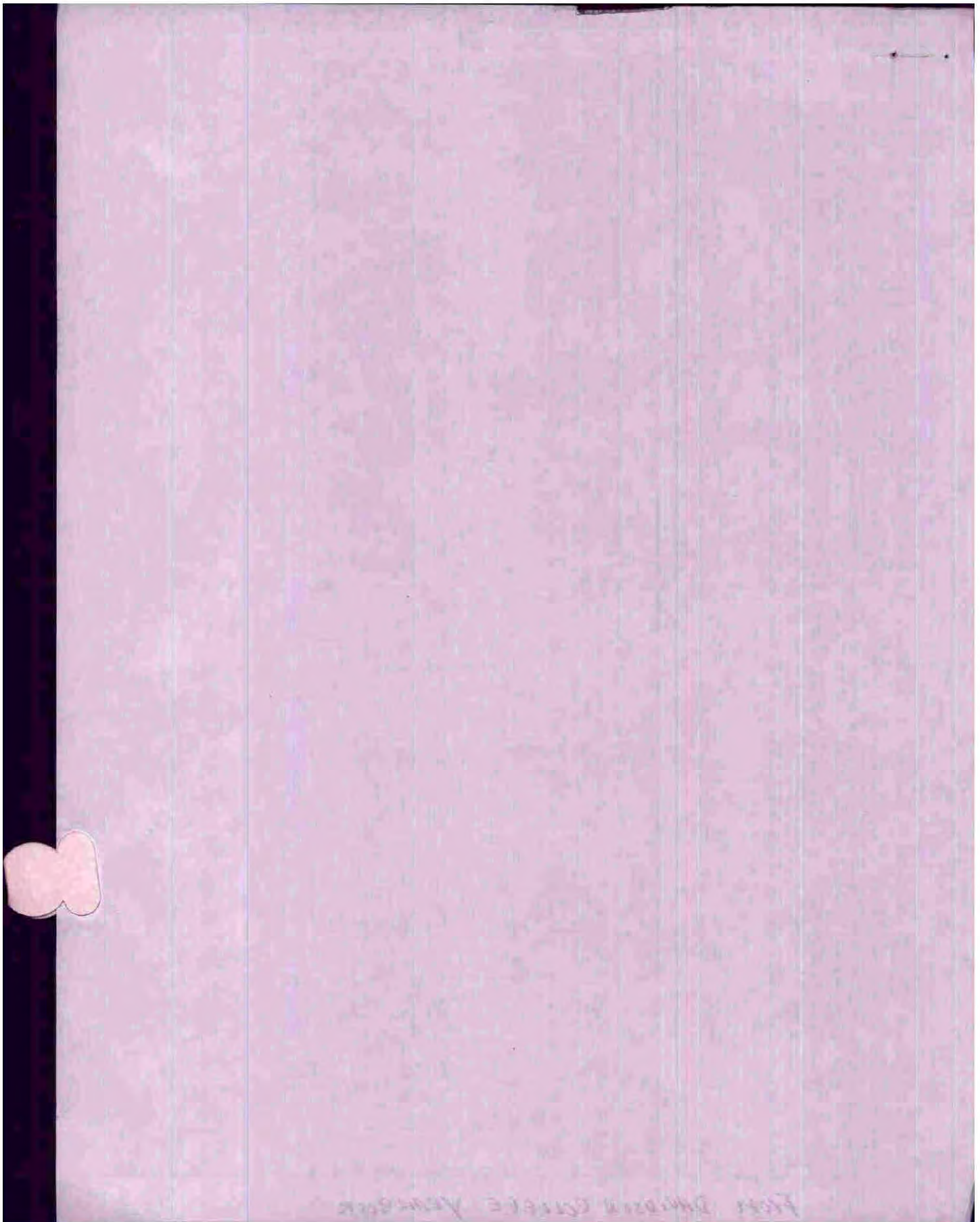
*"A heart to resolve, a head to contrive,  
a hand to execute."*

The Fates were kind when they sent  
to our class one of Sam's calibre, for  
there are few like him. Despite his  
light weight and diminutive stature, his  
prowess on the football field will be  
long remembered. His easy, courteous  
manner marks him a gentleman of the  
true old Southern type, while his popu-  
larity and the confidence placed in his  
ability is shown by his position as Pres-  
ident of the Student Body.

President Student Body; Vice-Presi-  
dent Athletic Association; Secretary-  
Treasurer Student Body; Vice-Presi-  
dent Class, 1914-15; Student Council  
(2); Y. M. C. A. Cabinet; Vice-Presi-  
dent Eu. Society; Scrub Baseball;  
Scrub Football; Varsity Baseball; Var-  
sity Football (3); Secretary-Treasurer  
Wearers of the "D"; Manager Class  
Baseball; Commencement Marshall;  
International Polity Club.

FROM DAVIDSON COLLEGE YEARBOOK





INFORMATION OFFICE

KEESLER AFB, MS

TO: *CCP MWA*  
*[Signature]*  
cc  
cc

*[Signature]*  
6 Feb 1979

Reference General Pustay's request for any material I might have regarding the spirit of Lt Keesler.

I have again gone through the files of the Center Historian. There is no new material other than what we used last year for the dedication of the Spirit of Keesler Center.

I have attached to this memo all the material we have on Lt Keesler. I have annotated those portions used by you last year at the Awards Banquet and the Spirit of Keesler Center dedication.

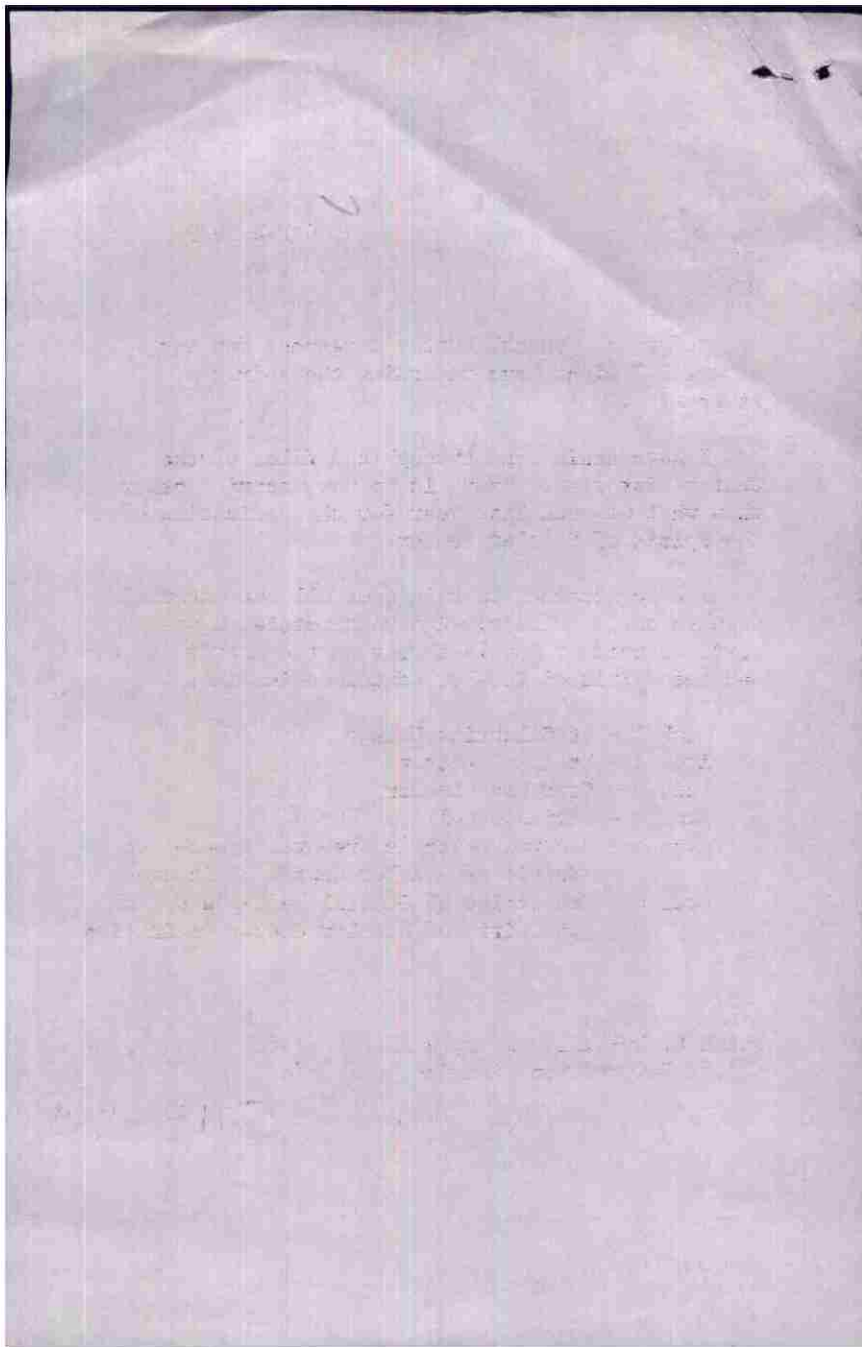
- Atch 1 - Lt Gilchrist Letter
- Atch 2 - Lt Riley Letter
- Atch 3 - Capt Wood Letter
- Atch 4 - Davidson College Yearbook
- Atch 5 - General Pustay's prepared speech for Spirit of Keesler Center dedication
- Atch 6 - Transcript of General Pustay's speech at Spirit of Keesler Center dedication

*[Signature]*  
DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

6 Atch  
a/s

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(8 Apr 1978)

"SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER"

DEDICATION SPEECH

MAJ. GEN. JOHN S. PUSTAY  
COMMANDER, KEESLER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF LT KEESLER -- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS --  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I AM BOTH HONORED AND PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY  
THIS AFTERNOON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEDICATION OF OUR NEWEST  
TRAINING FACILITY -- "THE SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER."

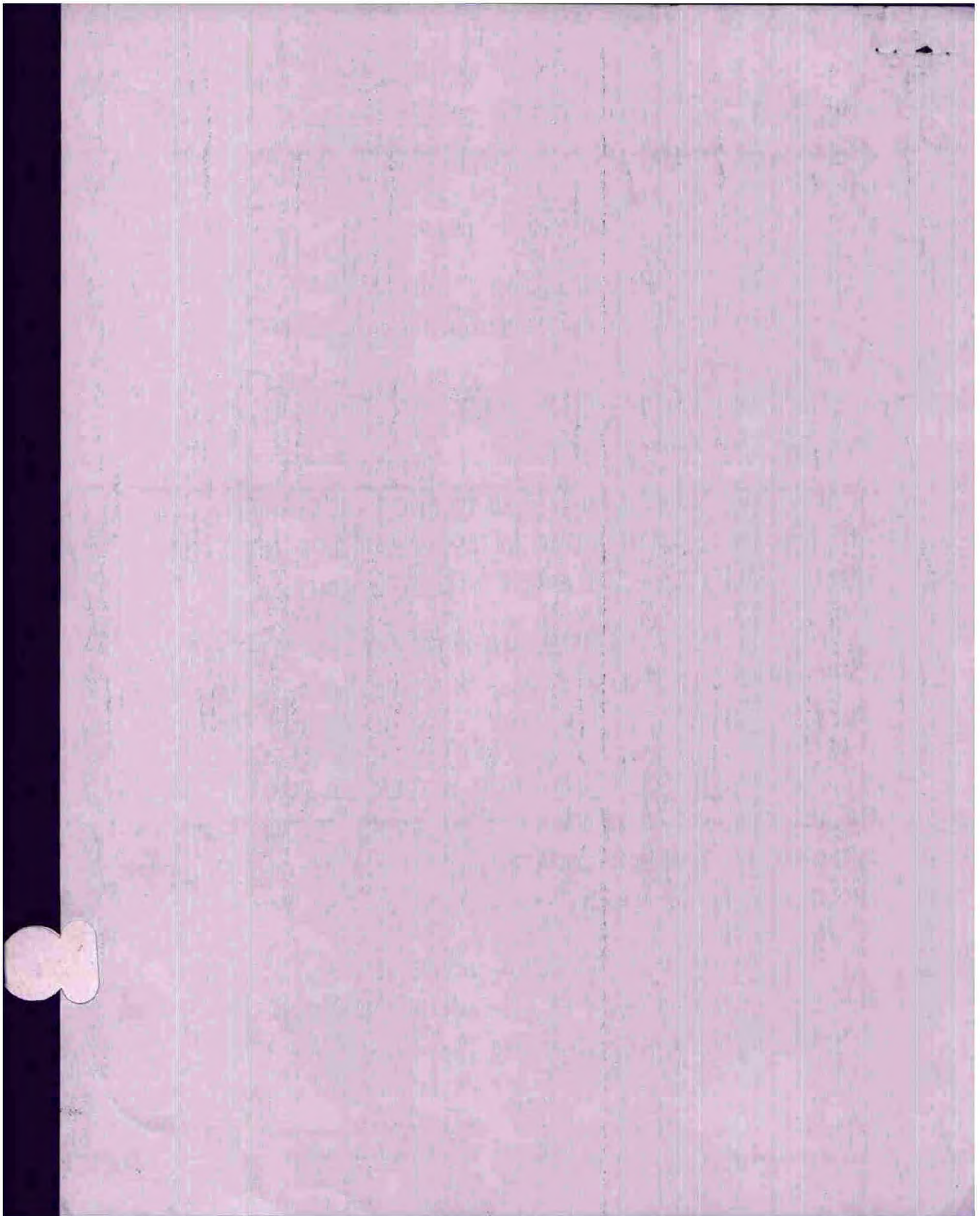
BOTH THE BASE AND THIS BEAUTIFUL FACILITY HONOR THE MEMORY  
OF LT SAMUEL REEVES KEESLER, JR., AN AERIAL OBSERVER FROM  
GREENWOOD, MISS.

THIS BUILDING IS DESIGNED TO BE A STUDY AND TRAINING CENTER  
FOR THE THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS WHO NOW AND WILL IN THE YEARS  
AHEAD RECEIVE TECHNICAL TRAINING HERE. IT IS THE ONLY FACILITY  
OF ITS KIND IN THE COMMAND.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE OR EVEN PICTURE THAT JUST A SHORT  
PERIOD OF TIME AGO, WHERE WE ARE STANDING/SITTING WAS THE  
KITCHEN PORTION OF A DINING FACILITY.

atcl 1







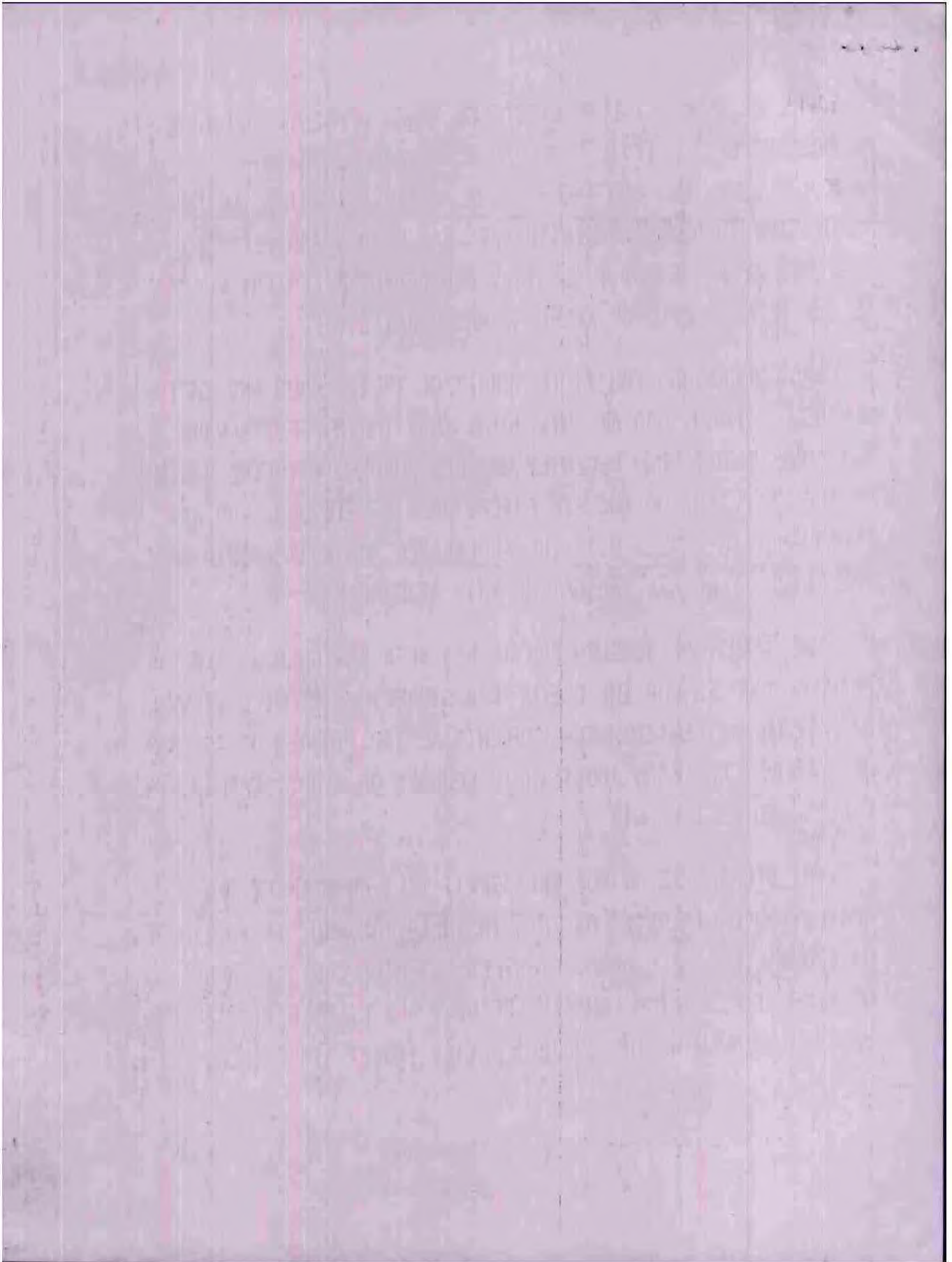
BUT, AS A RESULT OF HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF DEDICATED WORK BY MEMBERS OF OUR CIVIL ENGINEERING SQUADRON, TRAINING SERVICES DIVISION, AND THE STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION, USING INNOVATIVE IDEAS, FILLED WITH PERSONAL PRIDE, AND HELD TOGETHER BY A VISION, THIS STUDY AND LEARNING CENTER, WHICH IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF KEESLER, WAS CREATED.

WHAT SURROUNDS YOU IS THE FRUIT OF THEIR LABOR AND THEIR DREAMS. I MIGHT ADD AT THIS POINT THAT THEIR EFFORTS HAVE NOT GONE UNNOTICED. RECENTLY WE WERE HONORED WITH THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, JOHN C. STETSON, WHO WAS THOROUGHLY IMPRESSED WITH THE APPEARANCE AND WORKMANSHIP OF THE FACILITY WE ARE DEDICATING THIS AFTERNOON.

THE SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER HAS BEEN DESIGNED AS A MULTI-PURPOSE COMPLEX FOR THE USE OF OUR STUDENTS. IT WILL SERVE AS A LEARNING CENTER WHERE STUDENTS AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS PART OF A GROUP CAN LEARN ABOUT THEIR COURSES OF STUDY, CAREER FIELDS AND ASSIGNMENTS.

THE LIBRARY IS UNIQUE BECAUSE IT WILL COMPLEMENT THE CONVENTIONAL LIBRARIES ON THIS INSTALLATION, BUT IT WILL HAVE NO BOOKS LIKE THE OTHERS. INSTEAD, IT WILL CONTAIN THOUSANDS OF VIDEO TAPES WHICH CONTAIN LECTURES AND FILMS DEPICTING AND DESCRIBING MUCH OF THE SUBJECT MATTER TAUGHT AT KEESLER.





TAPES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON CAREER AREAS FOR WHICH THE STUDENTS ARE TRAINING. STUDENTS CAN CHECK OUT THESE VIDEO TAPES AND PLAY THEM ON THE TV VIEWERS WHICH YOU CAN SEE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE CENTER.

I BELIEVE THAT HAVING THESE MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY SETTING SURROUNDED BY THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARTIFACTS THAT CAPTURE THE RICH TRADITION OF THE AIR FORCE AND OF KEESLER ITSELF SHOULD ADD CONSIDERABLY TO THE MOTIVATION OF OUR STUDENTS AS THEY PREPARE TO BECOME THE PROFESSIONAL AIRMEN OF OUR SERVICE.

A GOOD QUESTION AT THIS POINT MAY BE: WHY NAME THE CENTER AFTER LT KEESLER? THE ANSWER TO THAT IS A SIMPLE ONE -- THIS STUDY AND LEARNING FACILITY PORTRAYS THE SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE WHICH HAS ALWAYS EXISTED HERE -- THE SAME SPIRIT THAT DOMINATED SAM KEESLER'S LIFE.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY 1ST LT STUART GILCHRIST WHO KNEW KEESLER IN FRANCE, WHICH EXEMPLIFIES THAT SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE I'M TALKING ABOUT:

"I NEVER SAW A FELLOW WHO WAS MORE ANXIOUS TO DO HIS WORK WELL. A HALF-DONE OR POORLY DONE MISSION DIDN'T SATISFY SAM. HE WANTED RESULTS, AND WASN'T CONTENT TO BE EXCUSED BECAUSE A PILOT HAD MISMANAGED THE MISSION OR A CAMERA HAD GONE BAD... PERHAPS SAM MIGHT HAVE COME BACK FROM THE LAST MISSION IF HE HAD NOT WANTED TO DO HIS BEST."



THE COMMENTS IN THIS LETTER CERTAINLY PORTRAY OUR CONCEPT OF THE "SPIRIT OF KEESLER" AND THIS FACILITY -- EXCELLENCE.

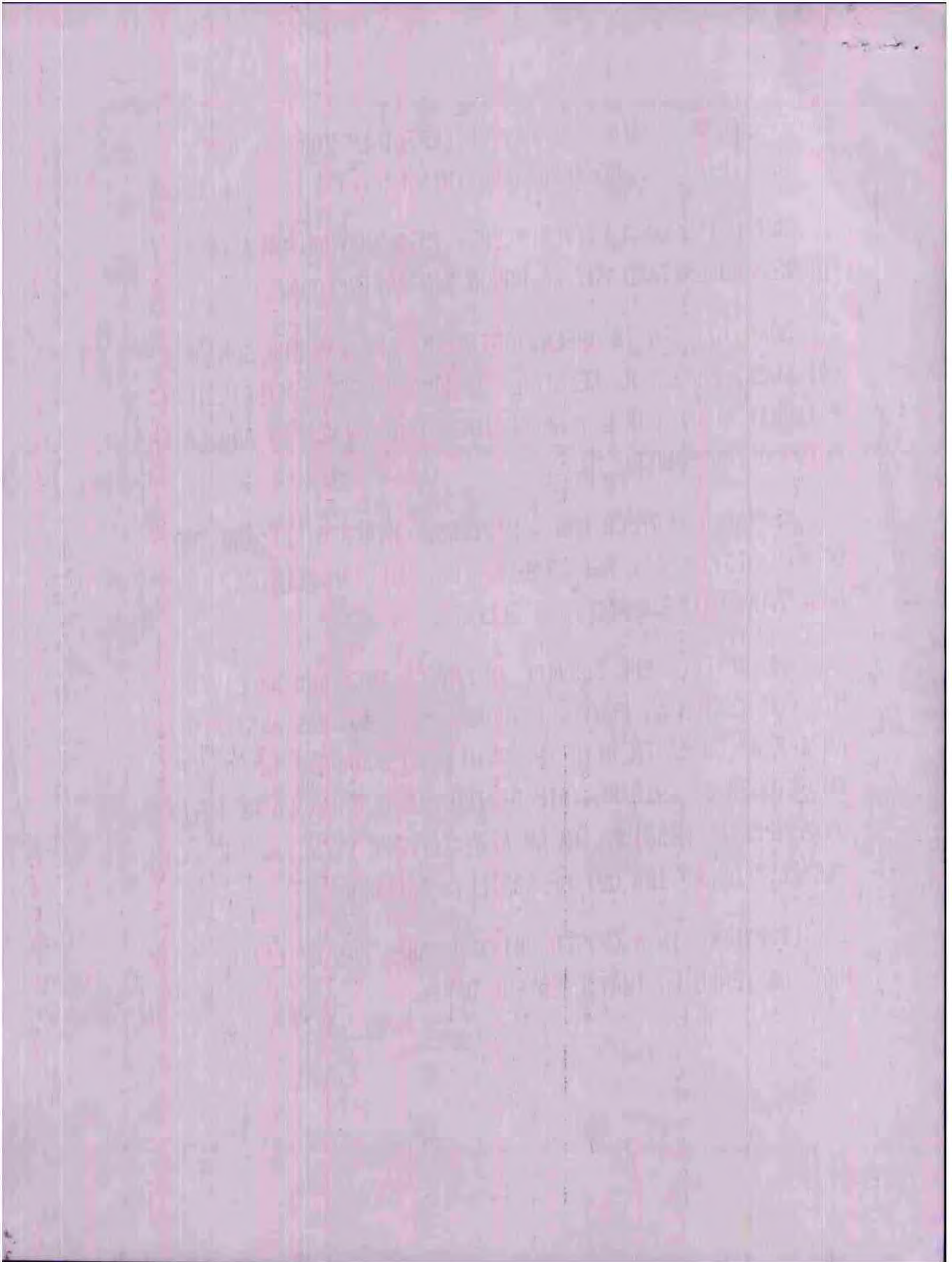
BUT LET'S GO A LITTLE DEEPER INTO THE MAN HIMSELF TO FURTHER UNDERSTAND WHY WE HONOR HIM AGAIN TODAY.

BORN IN 1896 IN GREENWOOD, MISS., HE WAS THE SON OF MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL R. KEESLER, COMMANDER OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD FOR 8 YEARS PRIOR TO WORLD WAR I, AND LATER MAYOR OF GREENWOOD, MISS.

HE HAD A BROTHER AND 5 SISTERS. HIS BROTHER AND TWO OF HIS SISTERS ARE HERE TODAY: MR. WILLIAM KEESLER, MRS. MARY GILMOUR AND MRS. ELLA PRATT.

SAM ENTERED THE SERVICE IN MAY OF 1917 AND RECEIVED HIS COMMISSION AT FORT OGLETHORPE, GA. HE WAS ASSIGNED AS AN AERIAL OBSERVER WITH THE 24TH AERO SQUADRON IN FRANCE. ON OCTOBER 8, 1918 HE JOINED PILOT 1ST LT HAROLD W. RILEY ON A SPECIAL MISSION, IN AN ARMY COMMAND PLANE, A TWO-PLACE "CAMEL," OPERATING OUT OF SONILLY, FRANCE.

LT RILEY, IN A LETTER WRITTEN THREE MONTHS LATER, TELLS WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT EVENTFUL DAY:





"IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF THE 8TH OF OCTOBER 1918, LT KEESLER AND MYSELF WERE ON A MISSION EAST OF VERDUN. SHORTLY AFTER WE CROSSED THE LINE AND JUST BEFORE WE HAD COVERED THE ASSIGNED TERRITORY, FOUR FOKKERS CAME FROM THE FRENCH SIDE OF THE LINE AND ATTACKED US. I AM CERTAIN LT KEESLER SHOT DOWN THE LEADER AS HE ATTACKED FIRST, AND I SAW HIM GO DOWN IN A STEEP NOSE DIVE. THE OTHER THREE OPENED FIRE IMMEDIATELY AND SHOT AWAY MY RUDDER CONTROLS, A PART OF MY ELEVATORS AND CRIPPLED ONE AILERON. WE WENT DOWN OUT OF CONTROL AND CRASHED. LT KEESLER FIRED ALL THE WAY DOWN AND AFTER WE CRASHED. ALTHOUGH KEESLER WAS WOUNDED SIX TIMES IN THE CHEST AND ABDOMEN, HE SHOWED A WONDERFUL DEGREE OF SELF-CONTROL AND WON THE ADMIRATION OF ALL THE GERMAN SOLDIERS WHO CAME TO LOOK AT HIM."

LT KEESLER DIED THE NEXT DAY AS A POW IN A GERMAN FIELD HOSPITAL. IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT KEESLER'S GALLANTRY, CITATION ORDERS WERE ISSUED MARCH 27, 1919 BY GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES COMMANDER. LATER LT KEESLER WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.



AND, AS YOU KNOW, KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE BEARS HIS NAME AND NOW, TODAY, THIS STUDY CENTER -- IN TRIBUTE TO ONE OF AMERICA'S EARLY AIR HEROES.

AGAIN, I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO YOU DURING THIS VERY HISTORIC OCCASION. THE MANY AMERICAN AND FOREIGN STUDENTS WHO WILL COME HERE IN THE YEARS AHEAD WILL USE THIS EXCELLENT FACILITY AND WILL COME TO KNOW -- TO SEE THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ADDED TO KEESLER'S RICH TRADITION AND HISTORY BEFORE THEM.

LET ME CLOSE BY READING TO YOU A PORTION OF A LETTER I RECEIVED FROM CHARLOTTE, KEESLER'S SISTER, WHO COULDN'T BE WITH US TODAY.

HER COMMENTS, AS A SISTER, ABOUT HER BROTHER'S SPIRIT AND COMPETITIVE NATURE TRULY REFLECT THE VALUES THAT WE ARE TRYING TO INSTILL IN THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HERE AT KEESLER:

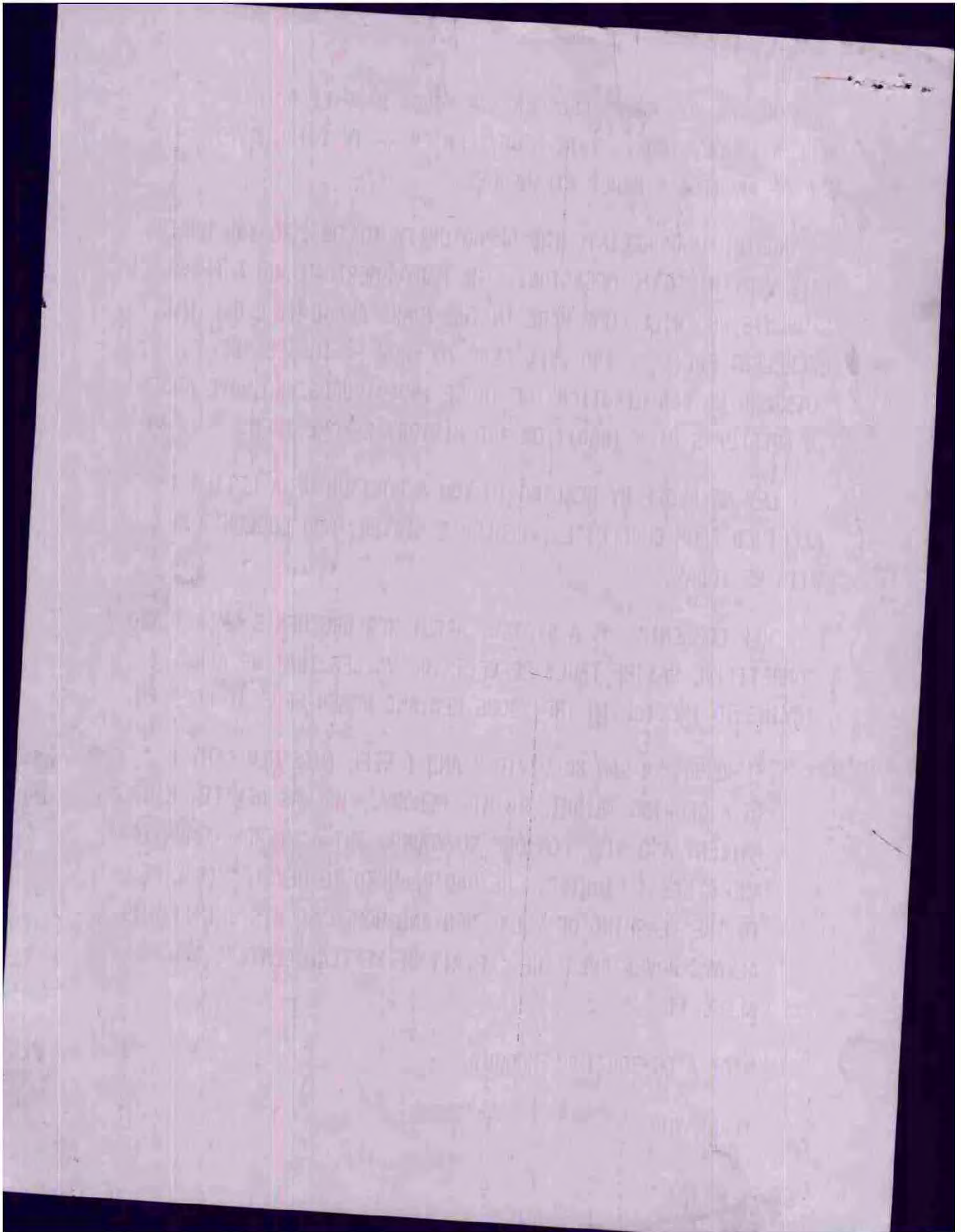
"I REMEMBER SAM SO VIVIDLY AND I FEEL THIS NEW CENTER IS A GLOWING TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY. HE WAS GENTLE, KIND, PATIENT AND WISE FOR ONE SO YOUNG, BUT A FIERCE COMPETITOR AND A GREAT FIGHTER. HE HAD PLANNED TO DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO THE TEACHING OF YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN SO HIS SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS HOVER OVER THE 'SPIRIT OF KEESLER CENTER' AND BLESS IT --"

WHAT A COMFORTING THOUGHT.

THANK YOU.

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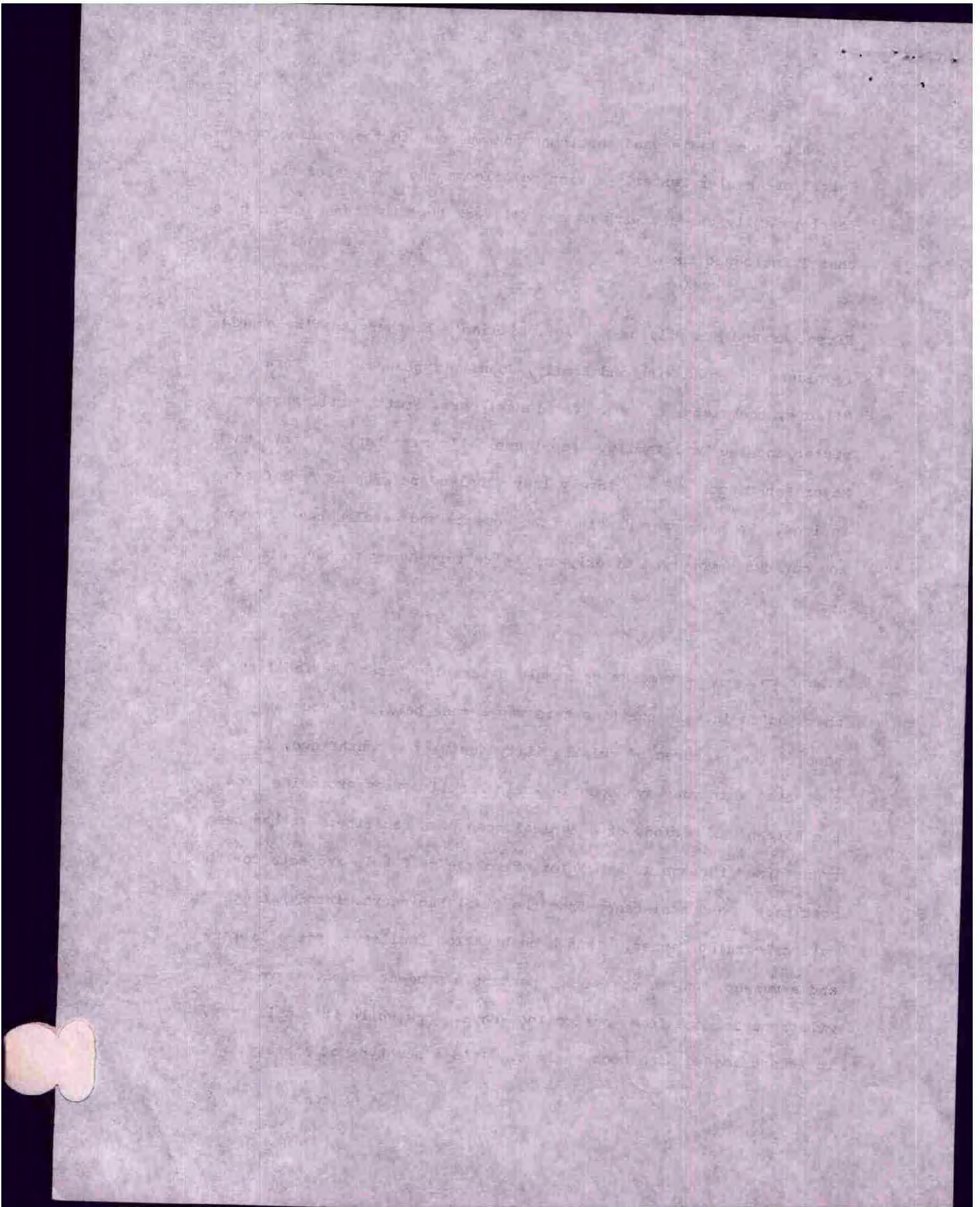
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Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the opening of the Spirit of Keesler Center. I want to welcome the members of the Keesler family who are with us and I'll ask them to stand at the time that I introduce them.

First, Mr and Mrs William Keesler, William's brother (that's Samuel). (applause) Mr John Fish and family, John. (applause) Mrs Enrae Gilmore, the sister of Sam. (applause) Mrs. Pratt, still another sister and the Tiel family. (applause) I'm also happy to note that Mayor Pat Connor and his lovely lady Ethelyn are with us from Ocean Springs. We have many distinguished guests and we also have with us now our own Mayor from Biloxi, and we're very happy to have him with us.

I want to open my remarks by simply describing first the facility that you're in. At one time this was a mess hall. As you saw some of the pictures of this facility just a few months ago, it resembled what you have seen in World War II movies or movies from the Korean War period, of a typical open mess facility. It has been transformed through an awful lot of work - self help projects for the most part - and assistance from the Civil Engineers, into what we call a Learning Center. It's a combination facility; it's a library and a museum, and in the sense, perhaps a student union, as you will remember one from your college days. Now while it's a library, it is not loaded with book shelves. It's a new type of library.



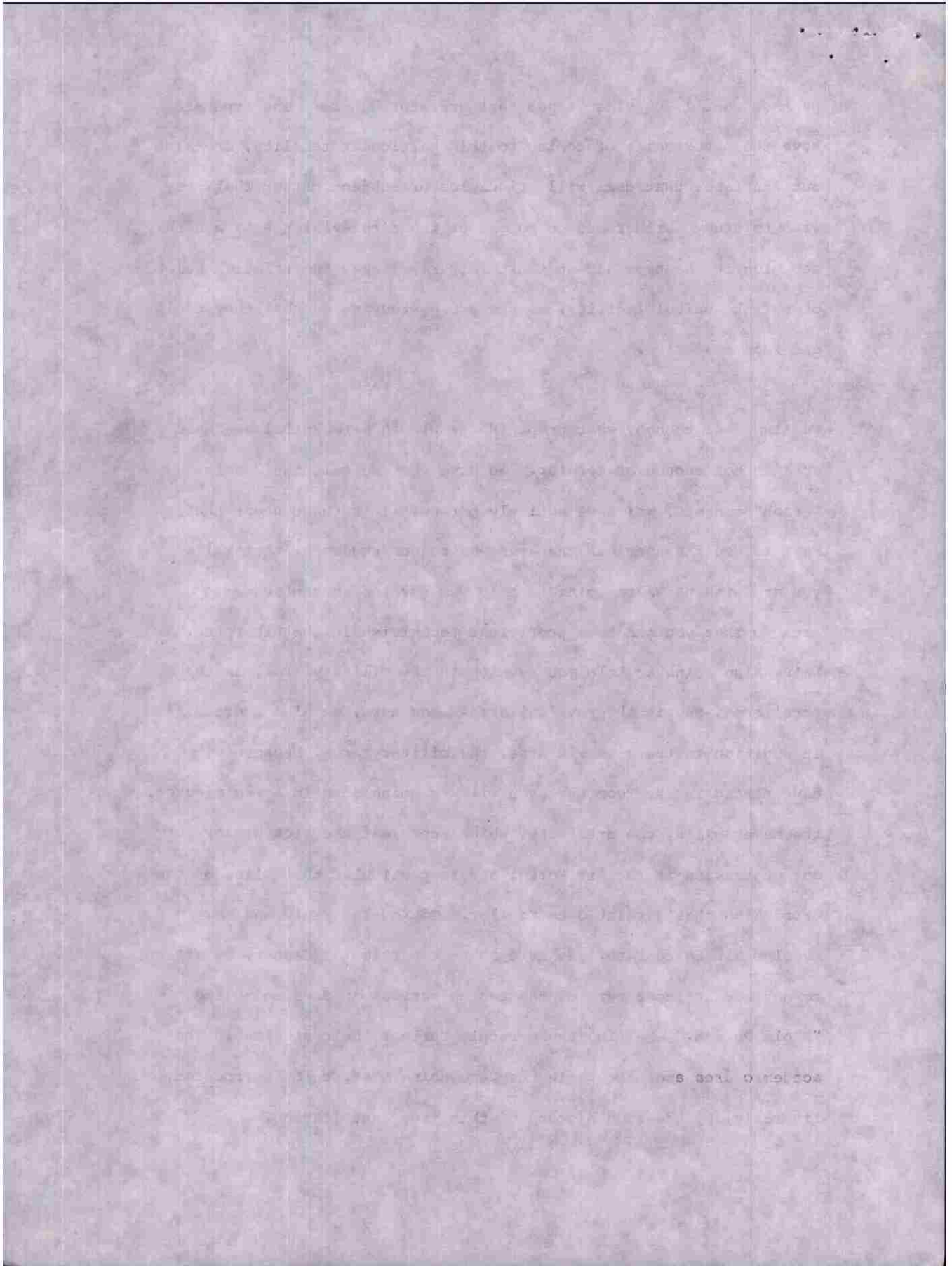


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We have some 1,000 video tapes that are stored here. The students have the opportunity of coming to this particular facility, checking out the tapes that deal with principles or subject matter that they wish to study further and go to one of these television sets and they can plug in the tape and at their leisure, I mean the relative quiet of this beautiful facility, do the extra studying so that they could excel in academics.

We also feel though, that preparing people in a technical academic area is not enough at Keesler. We have what we call the "Whole Person" concept, which we actively pursue. It's the concept that says to you the American taxpayer and to our students, that while you are with us we're going to help you develop in the academic area so that you can be a proficient technician in the Air Force. We're also going to help you develop in the military area, in the moral area, and in the physical area. Now here, we also address, in addition to the academic area, the military area, because we have placed in the room that you will be going into in a few minutes, the memorabilia, the artifacts, which represent the rich history of our profession in the Air Force, and in particular that slice of the profession that's related to Keesler. To Keesler Field and now Keesler Air Force Base. So here in this particular Center, we attempt to achieve at least part of the two objectives of developing the "Whole Person." Helping these people further their studies in the academic area and also while they are doing that, to be surrounded, literally, by the rich history of this fine installation.



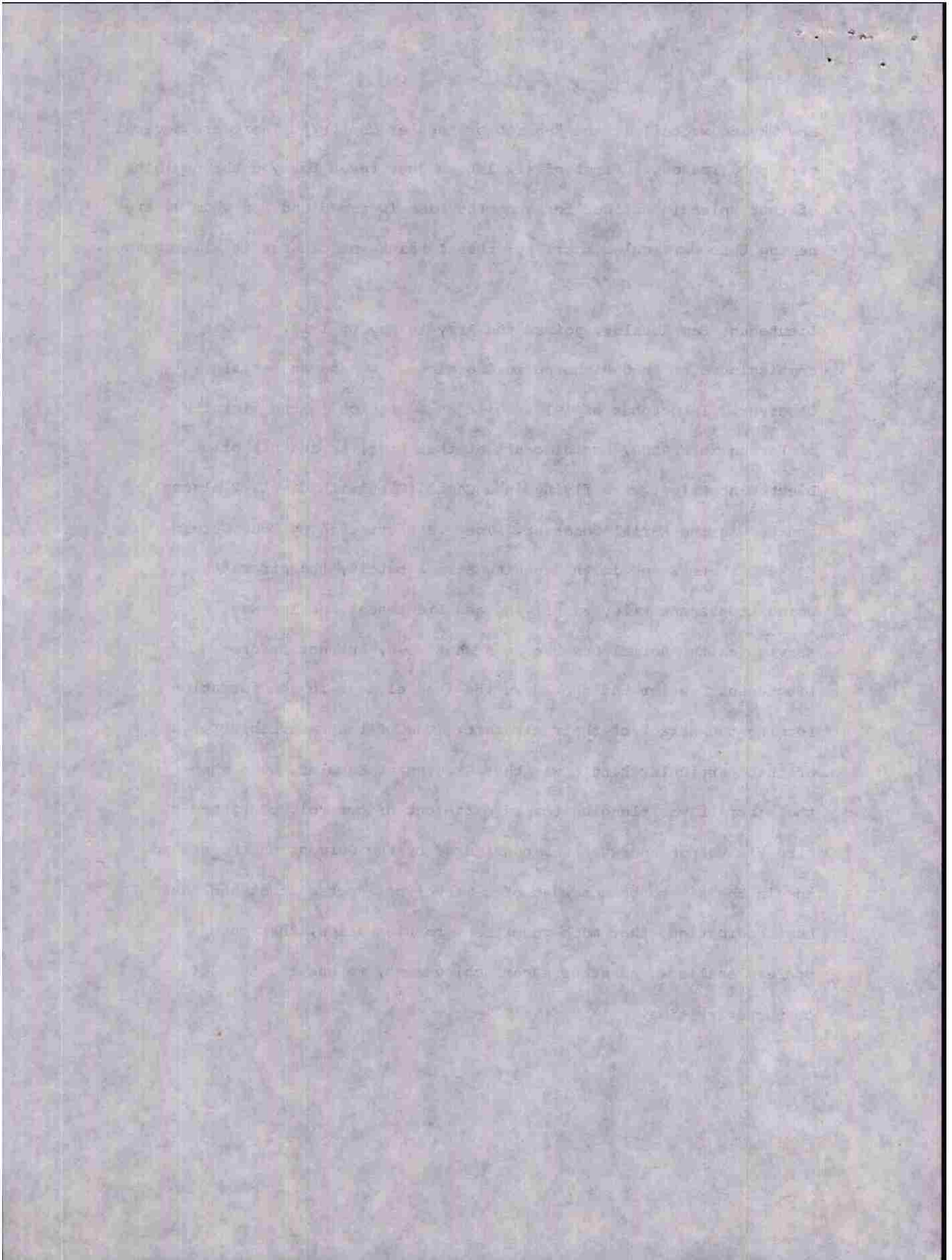


2923

Now why do we call it the "Spirit of Keesler Center?" There are several very good reasons. First of all let me just recap for you the exploits of that splendid officer for whom the base is named and for whom we are naming this particular facility; then I think you can put it all together.

Lieutenant Sam Keesler, joined the Army in May of 1917. He was commissioned at Ft Ogelthorpe in Georgia and became an Aerial Observer. In October of 1918, while on a mission in the vicinity of Verdun in France, his aircraft at that time, he and his pilot, Lieutenant Riley, were flying in a Camel (Slothwith Camel, 2 places) and he was the Aerial Observer. They were attacked by four German Fokker fighters and in the ensuing aerial battle, the aircraft which Lieutenant Riley was flying and Lieutenant Keesler was serving as the Aerial Observer was shot down, but not before Lieutenant Keesler had shot down the lead element in the formation forming the attack of their aircraft. One of the remarkable feats of that particular battle was that Lieutenant Keesler, even when the aircraft was plunging toward earth out of control, continued to fire his weapon and what was considered by the Germans on the ground and in the air to be somewhat of a marvel of a person that had that much dedication, that much commitment to his nation, that much professionalism. A rather super achievement, to use the term of contemporary time.

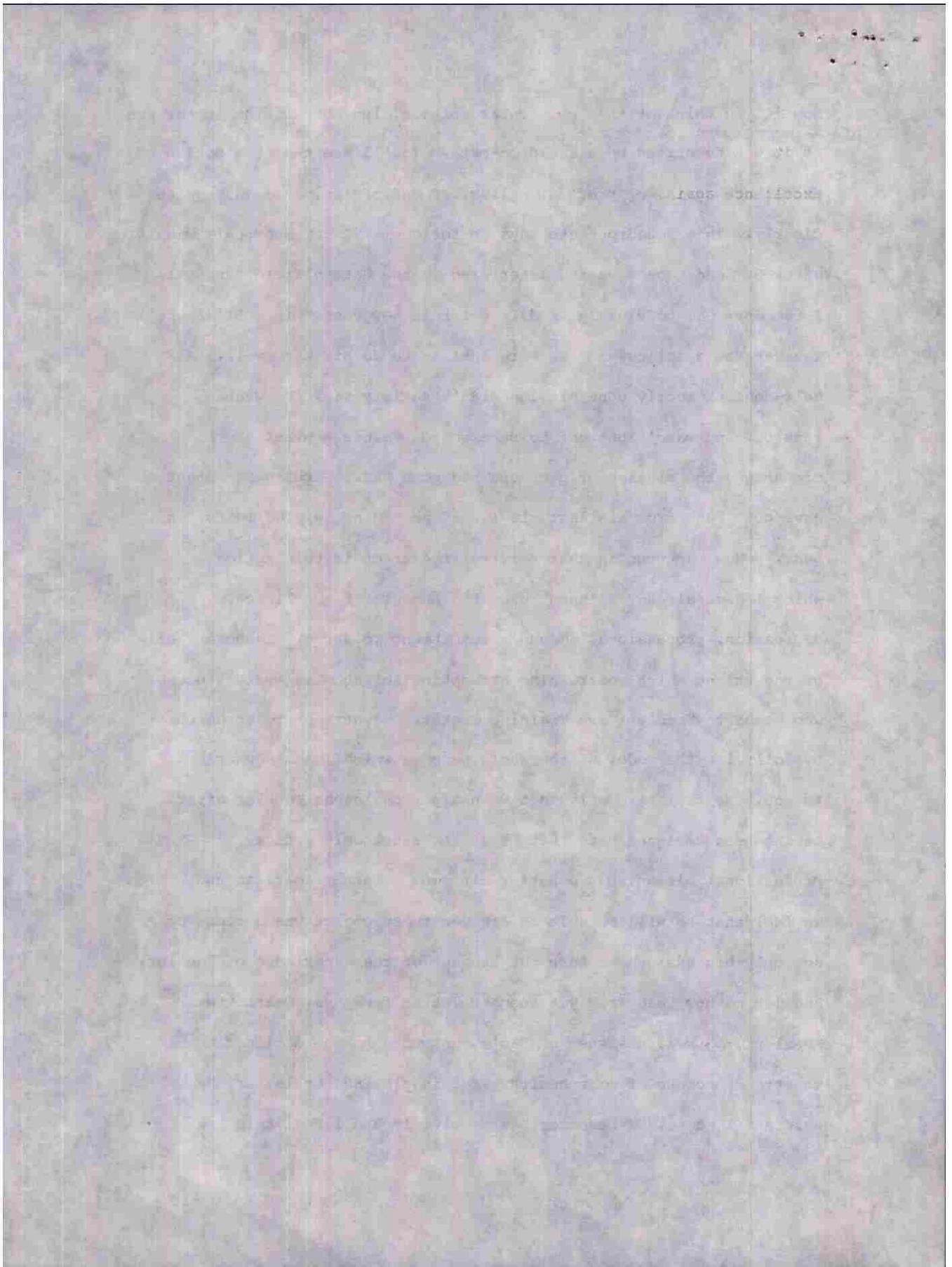




290.4

Now if you think of that particular episode, let me describe it for you as it was described by a squadron-mate. You'll see that the notion of excellence again, of professionalism, of dedication, comes out quite clearly. This squadron-mate says as follows: "I remember this was after Sam had gone down and later died in the German field hospital. I remember Sam so vividly and I feel this new center is a (I'm sorry) I never saw a fellow who was more anxious to do his work well. A half-done or poorly done mission didn't satisfy Sam. He wanted results, and wasn't content to be excused because a pilot had mismanaged the mission or a camera had gone bad. Perhaps Sam might have come back from his last mission if he had not wanted to do his best." Now captured in that particular extract is this notion which I have already alluded to of the pursuit of excellence, dedication, professionalism and a commitment to serve. These are all of the things which we are also attempting to imbue in every student who comes to Keesler Tech Training Center. We attempt to imbue that by following the model of the whole purpose which I just described to you. We feel strongly that when a person leaves Keesler after having been assigned here that he is to be not only a fine professional airman, but a better citizen, a better American and we feel that he will be able to achieve those objectives because of not only his assignment here but because of the experience of Keesler. And let me now read from yet another letter from Mrs. Charlotte Keesler Boulware, a sister of Sam's who wrote me and declined to attend because of poor health. But in closing her letter she said and I quote, "I remember Sam so vividly and I feel this new

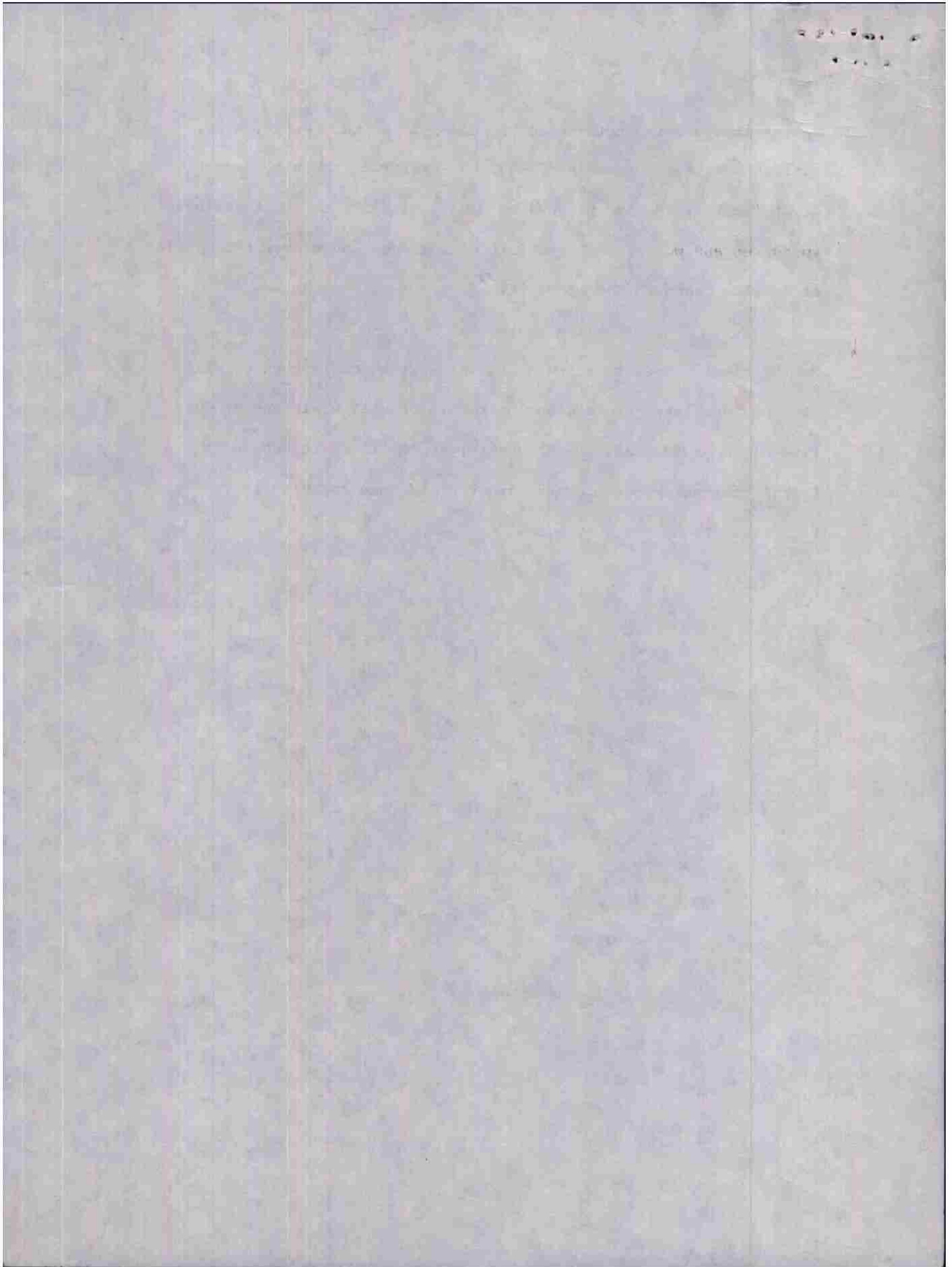




center is a glowing tribute to his memory. He was gentle, kind, patient and wise for one so young, but a fierce competitor and a great fighter. He had planned to devote his life to the teaching of young men and women, so his spirit will always hover over the Spirit of Keesler Center. God bless it."

So the closing note that I wish to leave with you is that we will produce exemplary, professional airmen. We will train and produce fine citizens for this great country, and we'll do it because the Spirit of Keesler moves everything that is done at this fine facility. Thank you very much.





STAFF SUMMARY SHEET					
	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade)		SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade)
1	CCE	Info	<i>[Signature]</i>	8	
2	CCP	Info	<i>[Signature]</i>	7	
3	CV	Info	<i>[Signature]</i>	8	
4	CC	Info	<i>[Signature]</i>	9	
5				10	
SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE			SYMBOL	PHONE	TYPIST'S INIT.
Major Hopkins			KTTC/OI	3901	e1
SUBJECT					DATE
Keesler Family					16 February 1978
SUMMARY					
<p>1. Using the files from Protocol, History, and information from Colonel Wenzel, I have been able to contact a brother and sister of Lt Samuel Keesler.</p> <p>2. The following are surviving members of the family:</p> <p>William P. Keesler (Brother), Cleveland, Miss.  Ethel Duncan (Sister), Greenwood, Miss.  Charlotte Steel (Niece), Greenwood, Miss. - daughter of Ethel  Charlotte Boulware (Sister), Richmond, Va.  Mary Gilmour (Sister), Charlotte, N.C.  Ella Pratt (Sister), Durham, N.C.</p> <p>3. I spoke with both William Keesler and Ethel Duncan. William is somewhat deaf, so I spoke mainly with his wife. She said they would be happy to come to Keesler for the dedication of the "Spirit of Keesler Center." She said the family would consider it an honor and became a little emotionally "choked-up" by the end of the telephone conversation. Mrs. Keesler said that they would need transportation and I told her it would be provided. William is 83 years old.</p> <p>4. Ethel told me that she is too ill and frail to make the trip, but said that her daughter, Charlotte Steel, would probably like to be at the dedication. She asked me to call Charlotte next week after she returns from a trip.</p> <p>5. There has been some discussion about the Retired Officers Association handling the transportation of the Keeslers. I feel this is the wrong approach. These people should be escorted by "blue suit" active duty people.</p> <p>6. A staff car will probably be needed to transport William Keesler and his wife. Due to the distance involved, the Keeslers will probably need to stay overnight. Perhaps a VIP cottage can be arranged.</p> <p>7. I would suggest, however, that invitations from General Pustay be mailed to all the brothers and sisters.</p>					

*POA can bring them - we can refer to them - also want to give POA a feeling of participation*

*[Signature]*

AF FORM 1768  
APR 71



8. For your information, the following is a brief biography of Second Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr.:

- Born 1896 in Greenwood, Miss.
- Son of Major General Samuel R. Keesler, commander of the Mississippi National Guard for eight years prior to World War I. Later became the mayor of Greenwood, Miss.
- Lt Keesler was the student body president at Davidson College, Davidson, N.C.
- Keesler entered the service in May of 1917 and received his commission at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. He was assigned as an aerial observer with the 24th Aero Squadron in France.
- On 8 October 1918, his plane was shot down over Verdun. Although Keesler was wounded six times in the chest and abdomen, he lived until noon the next day and died in a German field hospital as a POW.
- The following is an extract of a letter written by Lieutenant Stuart Gilchrist who knew Keesler in France.

-- "I never saw a fellow who was more anxious to do his work well. A half done or poorly done mission didn't satisfy Sam. He wanted results, and wasn't content to be excused because a pilot had mismanaged the mission or a camera had gone bad..... Perhaps Sam might have come back from the last mission if he had not wanted to do his best."

- The comments in the above letter certainly portray our concept of the "Spirit of Keesler" -- Excellence.

*Doran L. Hopkins*  
DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

*Good - prepare  
some cards for  
my use at  
death camp.*

*This should be  
sailed every  
local papers &  
for Am. Forces  
and work.*



February 23, 1978

Major Doran Hopkins  
Office of Information  
Keesler Air Force Base  
Mississippi 39534

Dear Major Hopkins:

I spoke last evening with my-niece, Mrs. Ed Hunter Steele, in Greenwood, Mississippi, and she asked that I write and give you the names and addresses of the relatives of my late brother, Samuel Reeves Keesler. For your records, there were seven children in Sam's family of which he was the second child, only fourteen months younger than my other brother, William Parish Keesler. Besides the two boys, there are five sisters. I shall list the family by chronological order with addresses, children and children's addresses.

William Parish Keesler (Mr. and Mrs.)  
507 Sixth Avenue *Elizabeth* Brother  
Cleveland, Mississippi 38732  
(601)843-2940

Clara Wise Pitts Wolf (Mr. and Mrs.  
Robert Wolf)  
5825 Navaho Trail  
Alexandria, La. 71301  
(318)442-2520

Only child: Betty Magill Straehle  
(Dr. and Mrs. W. Straehle)  
4034 Crescent Road *Niece*  
Ellicott City, Md. 21043

Charlot Keesler Pitts Morrison  
(Dr. and Mrs. Robert C.)  
36 Brown's Bend Rd.  
Alexandria, La. 71301  
(318)448-0358

Charlotte Wright Keesler Boulware  
(Mr. and Mrs. John N. Boulware)  
4307 Newport Drive Sister  
Richmond, Va. 23227  
(804)353-5160

Mary Nash Keesler Gilmour  
(Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Taylor Gilmour)  
934 Granville Rd. Sister  
Charlotte, N. C. 28207  
(704)332-3269

Only Child: J. Legrand Everett IV (*Mr & Mrs.*)  
743 Mancil Road  
Strafford-Wayne, Pa. 19087

Five children:  
The Rev. and Mrs. Hal Hyde  
(Elizabeth Taylor Gilmour Hyde)  
126 Longleaf Road  
Southern Pines, N. C.

Isabel Parish Keesler Pitts (deceased 1/1/78)  
Mr. John L. Pitts, Jr. - *Brother - in - law*  
2300 Horseshoe Drive Sister (deceased)  
Alexandria, La. 71301  
(318)442-8161

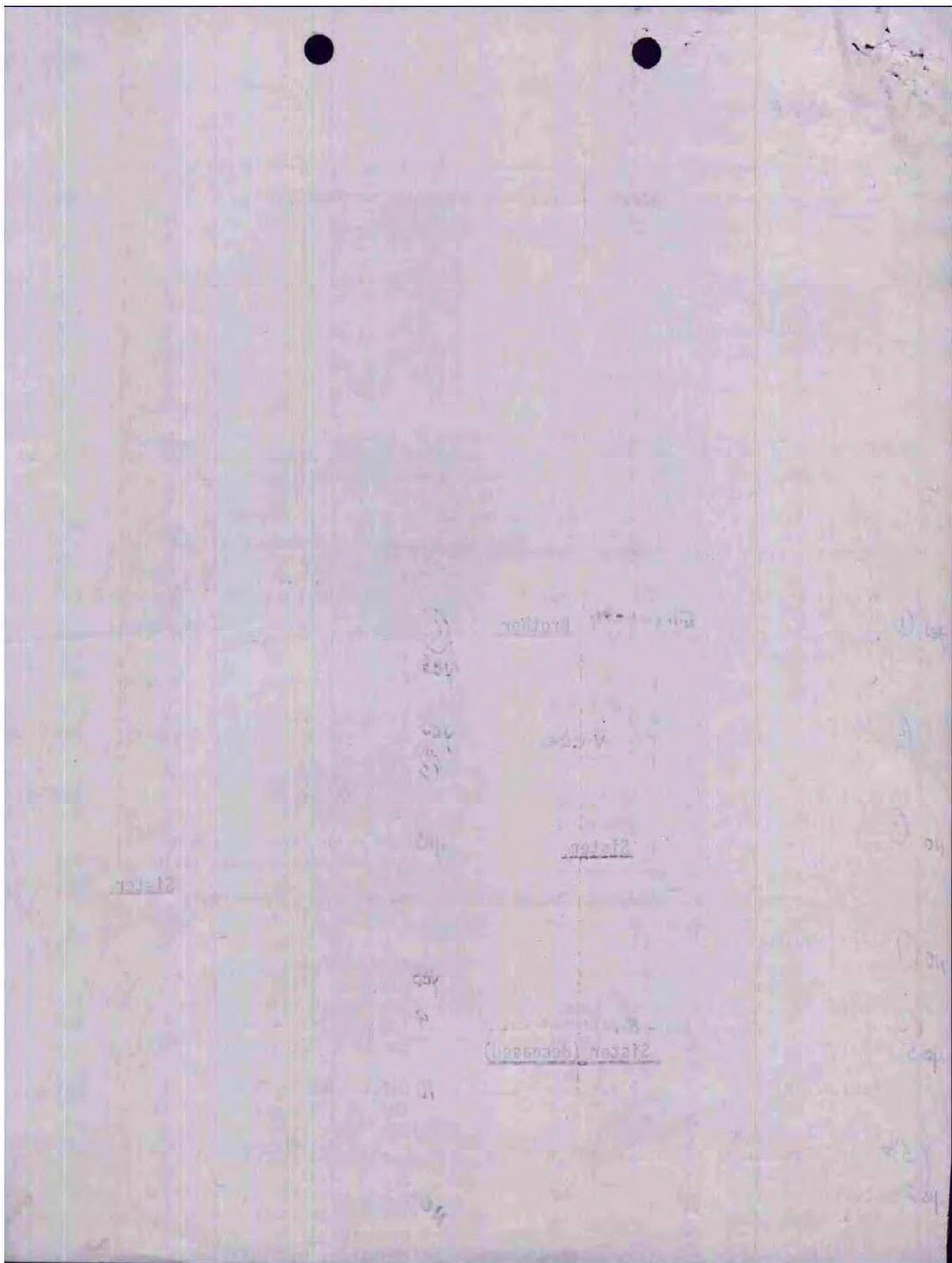
David Pollock Gilmour  
(Dr. and Mrs. David P. Gilmour)  
126 Depot Road  
Hollis, N. J. 03047

Three daughters:

Isabel Keesler Pitts Miller (Mr. and Mrs. H. A.)  
5812 Hiawatha Court  
Alexandria, La. 71301  
(318)448-3197

Ethel Keesler Gilmour Uribe  
(Sr. Jorge Uribe y Sna)  
Apto Aero 3793  
Medellin, Colombia SA





# Cultural Affairs

Major Doran Hopkins  
February 23, 1978  
Page Two

*NO* Monroe Taylor Gilmour, Jr.  
c/o CARE, P. O. Box MS682  
Maseru, Lesotho South Africa

*NO* Virginia Marquand Gilmour  
934 Granville Rd.  
Charlotte, N. C.

*NO* Ethel Caston Keesler Duncan  
(Mrs. David Duncan - widow)  
201 E. Cleveland St. *Sister*  
Greenwood, Miss. 38930  
(601)453-6936

Two daughters:

*YES* Charlotte Keesler Garrard Steele  
(Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunter Steele)  
1440 Grand Blvd.  
*12* Greenwood, Miss. 38930  
(601)453-5300

*3* Mabelle Mosely Garrard Seawright  
(Mr. and Mrs. James Seawright)  
157 Wooster St.  
New York, N. Y. 10012  
(212)674-6868 or 673-8951

We are pleased to know of the new building which will be dedicated to Sam's memory, and I hope that many of us will be able to be at Keesler Air Force Base again. Our last visit there was a most memorable one. We are all grateful for the care and interest you have in Sam's family. If I may be of any assistance, please call on me. With all good wishes, I am

*14* Ella Fountain Keesler Pratt  
(Mrs. Lanier W. Pratt - widow)  
1109 Woodburn Road  
*YES* Durham, N. C. 27705 *Sister*  
(919)489-6153 Home  
(919)684-5578 Office at Duke University

Two Sons:

*YES* Lanier Ward Pratt, Jr.  
(Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Pratt, Jr.)  
Apt. 105  
727 Dixmyth Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220  
(513)559-0143

*NO* Samuel Keesler Pratt  
(Named for my father and my brother,  
Samuel Reeves Keesler)  
1109 Woodburn Road  
Durham, N. C. 27705  
(919)489-6153

Cordially yours,

*Ella Fountain Pratt*

Ella Fountain Keesler Pratt  
(Mrs. Lanier W. Pratt)

EFKP:elg



OFFICE INFORMATION  
KEESLER AFB, MS

TO: CCE <sup>W</sup>  
CC

3 March 1978

Attached is a draft of the invitation to the Keesler family for your approval.

I suggest it be typed on two-star stationery and sent to each member of the Keesler family listed in the attached letter from Mrs. Pratt.

Although a number of these people may not be able to attend the dedication due to distance, I feel it is a good gesture to send the invitation and let them know of our plans for the "Spirit of Keesler Center."

Colonel Smothermon has seen and approved.

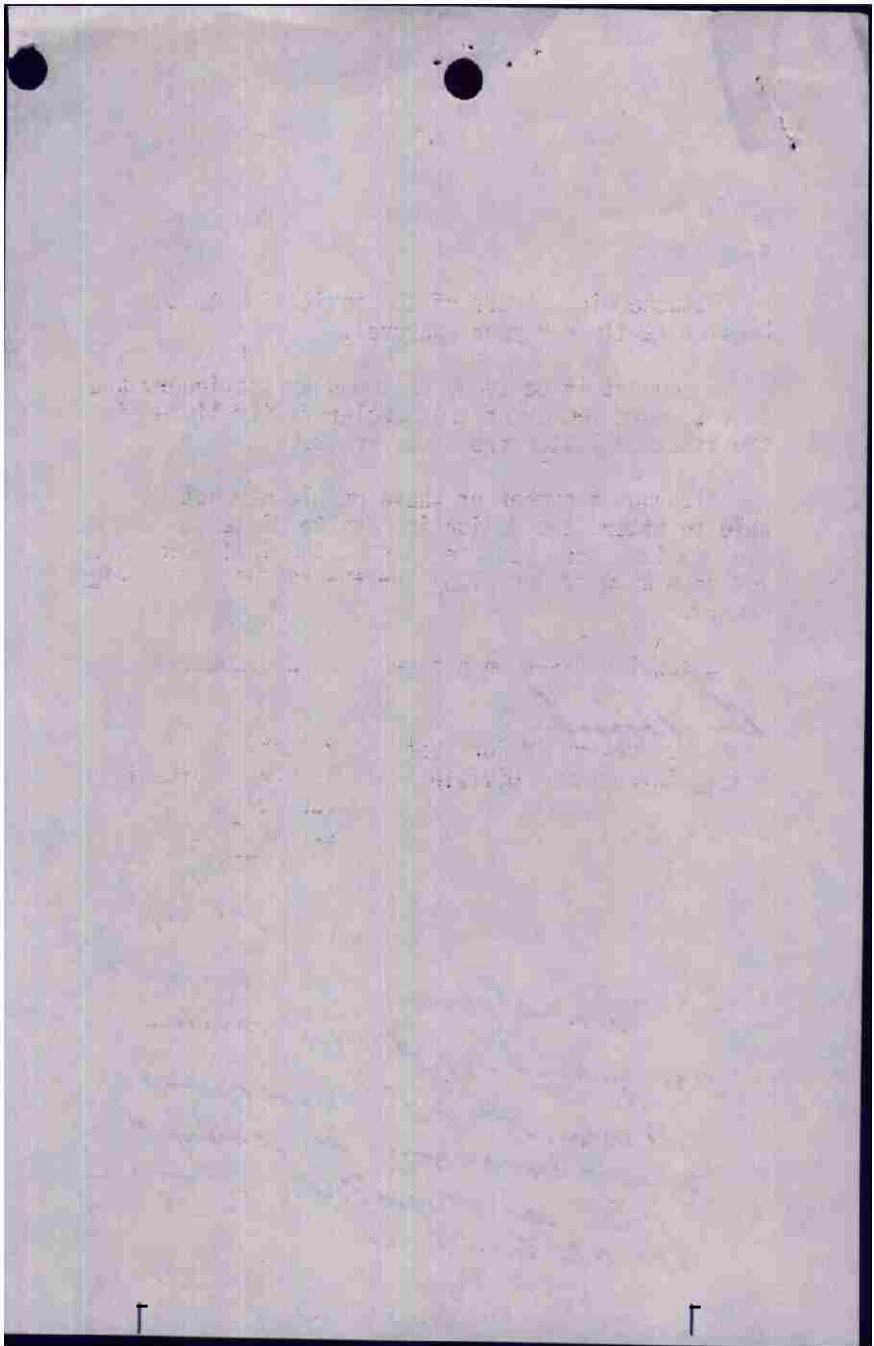
*ll - Hopk*  
DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

- 2 Atch  
1. Ltr, Invitation (draft)  
2. Ltr from Mrs. Pratt

*6 May*

- I will want to invite our friends from town*
- I want all around news coverage of event*
- This is another chance for it to excel*

*P*





Dear \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

The dedication of the "Spirit of Keesler Center" will be on Saturday, 8 April at 2:00 p.m. I would consider it an honor if you and your family could be present as distinguished guests. We would like to especially recognize members of the family of Sam Keesler who brought honor both to the State of Mississippi and the United States of America.

If it is possible for you to be present for the dedication, please notify my Information Officer, Major Doran L. Hopkins, who will be making the arrangements for your visit. His address is KTTC/OI, Keesler AFB, MS 39534 or you can reach him by telephone (601) 377-3901.

I will be looking forward to meeting you at the dedication.

Sincerely

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander



9 March 1978



KEESLER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI 39534

Mr. and Mrs. William Keesler  
507 Sixth Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keesler

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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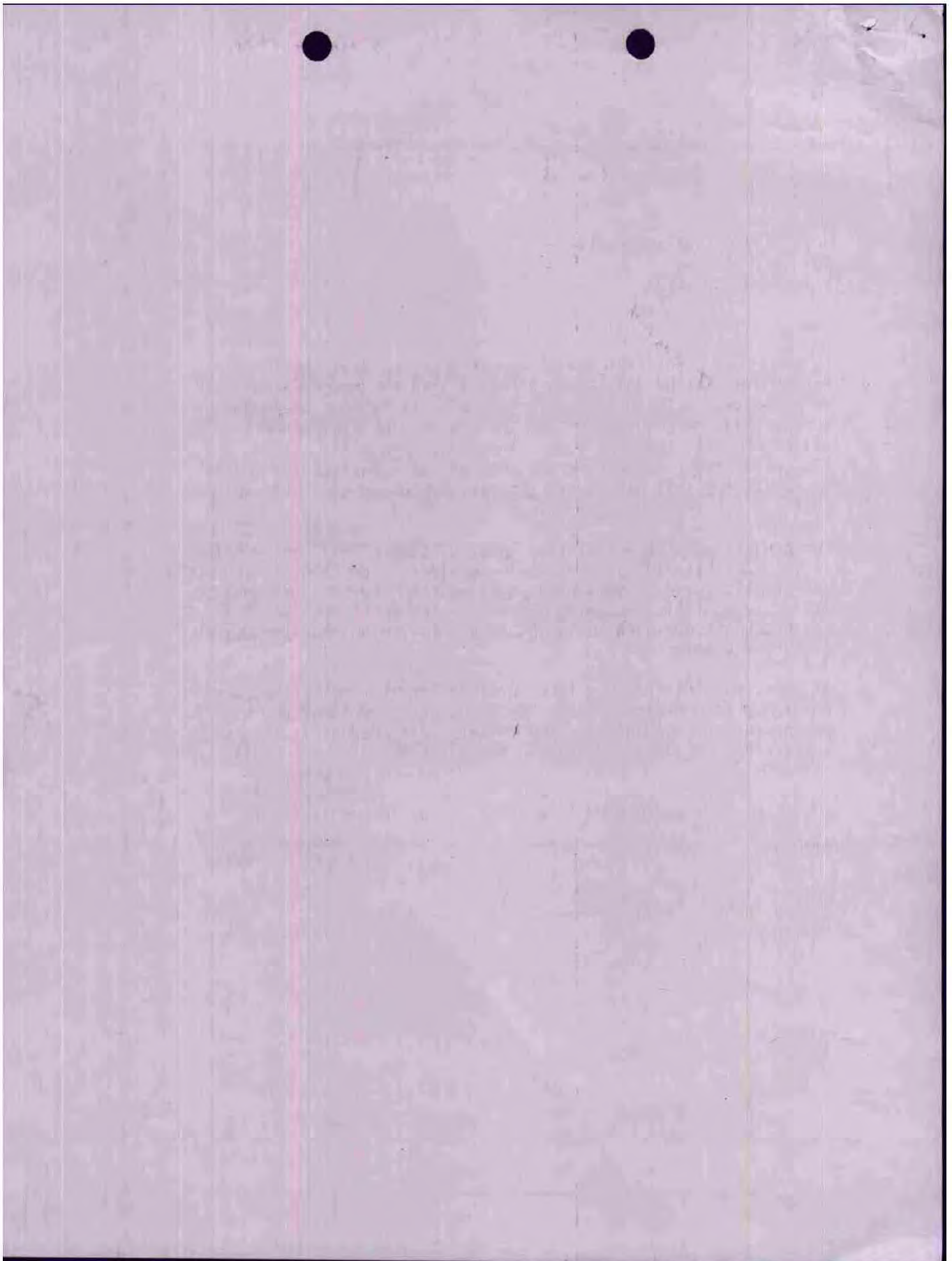
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I will be looking forward to meeting you at the dedication.

Sincerely

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





*Typed 8 Mar 78*

Mr. and Mrs. L.W. Pratt, Jr.  
Apt. 105  
727 Dixmyth Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pratt

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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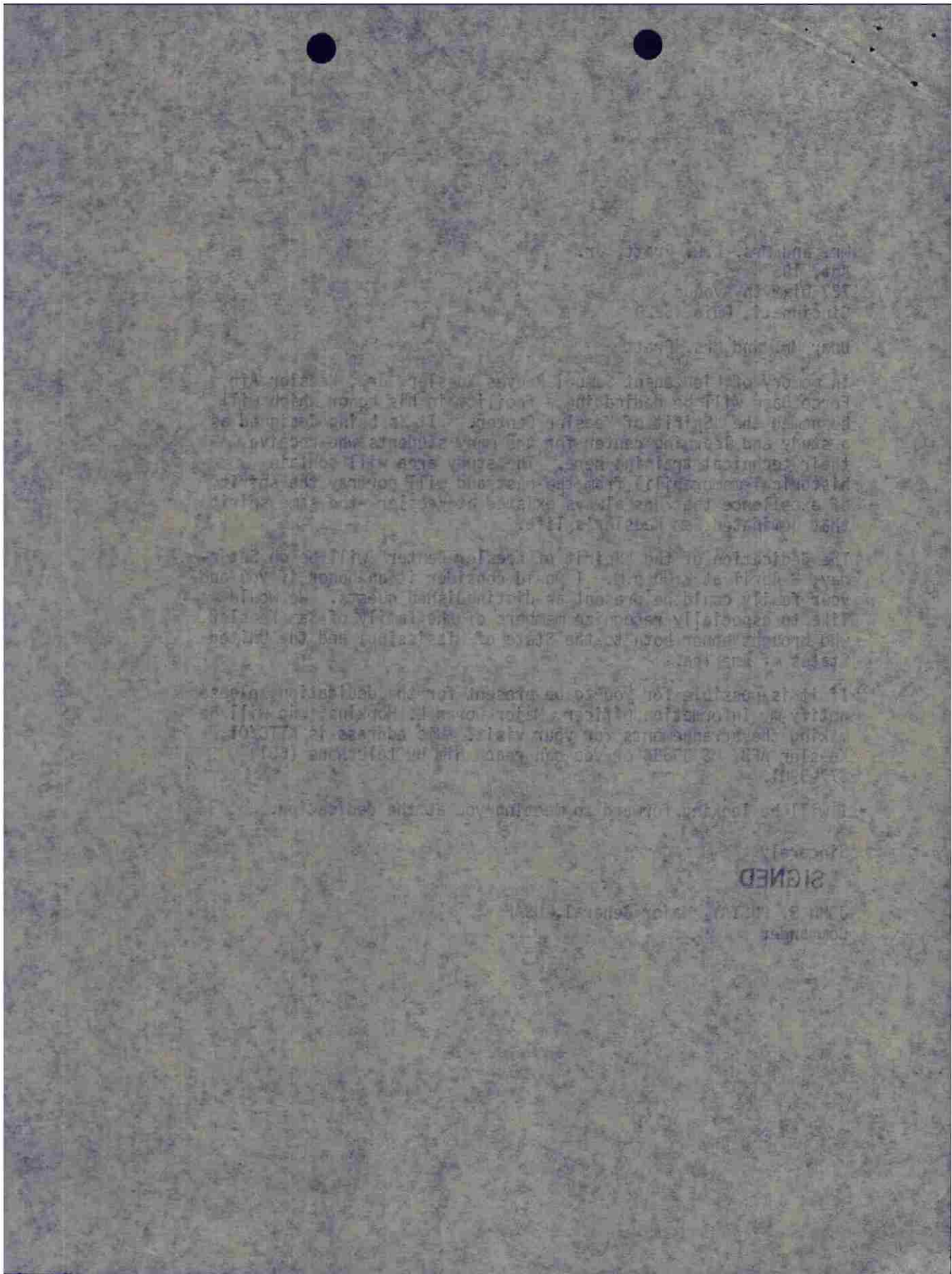
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Sincerely

**SIGNED**

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





Mr. and Mrs. Lanier W. Pratt  
1109 Woodburn Road  
Durham, NC 27705

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pratt

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander



Mr. and Mrs. James Seawright  
157 Wooster St.  
New York, NY 10012

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Seawright

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Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunter Steele  
1440 Grand Blvd.  
Greenwood, MS 38930

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Steele

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JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





Mrs. David Duncan  
201 E. Cleveland St.  
Greenwood, MS 38930

Dear Mrs. Duncan

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JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander



Dr. and Mrs. David P. Gilmour  
126 Depot Road  
Hollis, NJ 08047

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Gilmour

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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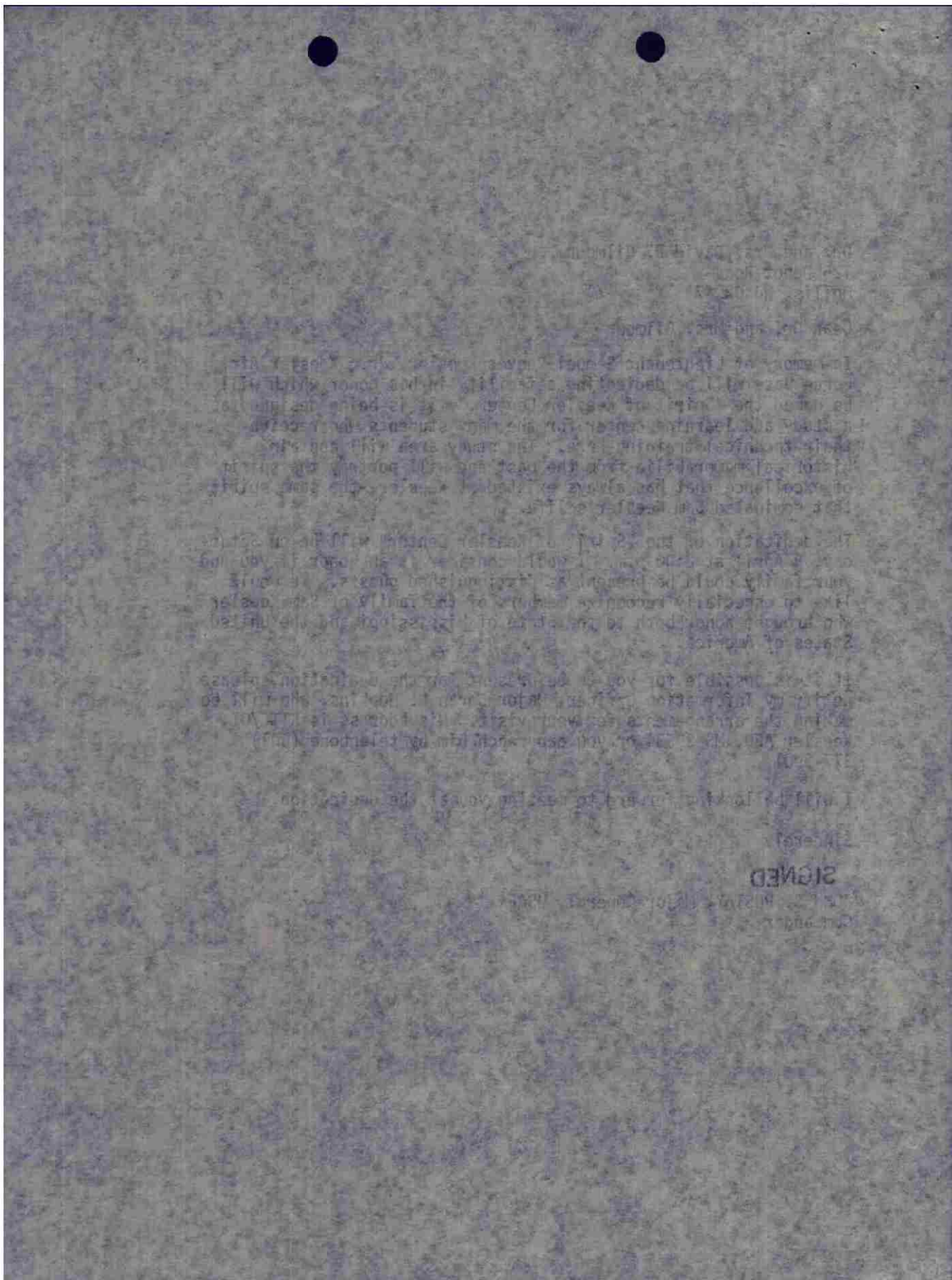
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JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





The Rev. and Mrs. Hal Hyde  
126 Longleaf Road  
Southern Pine, NC 28187

Dear Rev. and Mrs. Hyde

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander

Dr. and Mrs. Monroe Gilmour  
934 Granville Road  
Charlotte, NC 28207

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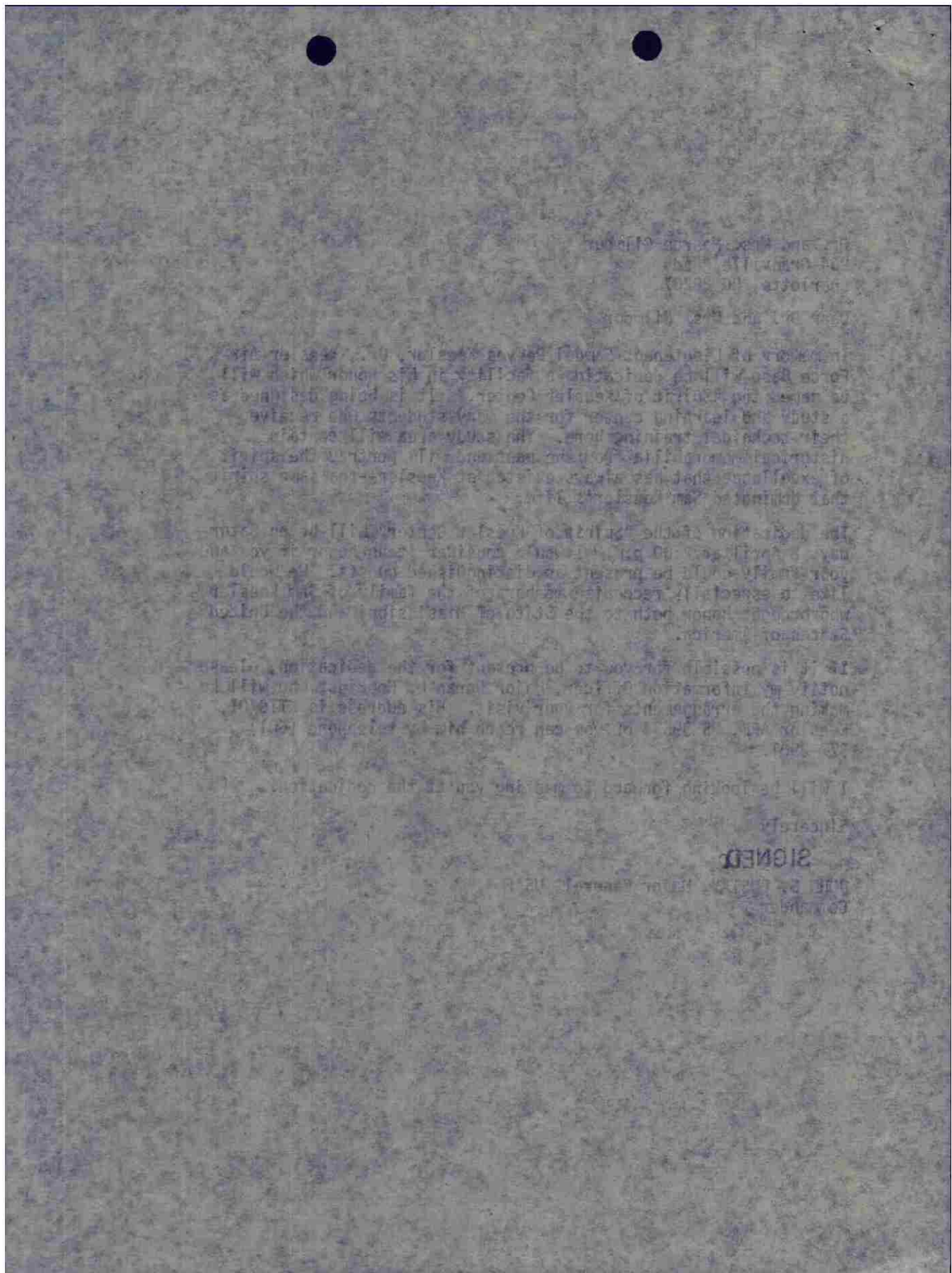
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Sincerely

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JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
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Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Morrison  
36 Brown's Bend Road  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Morrison

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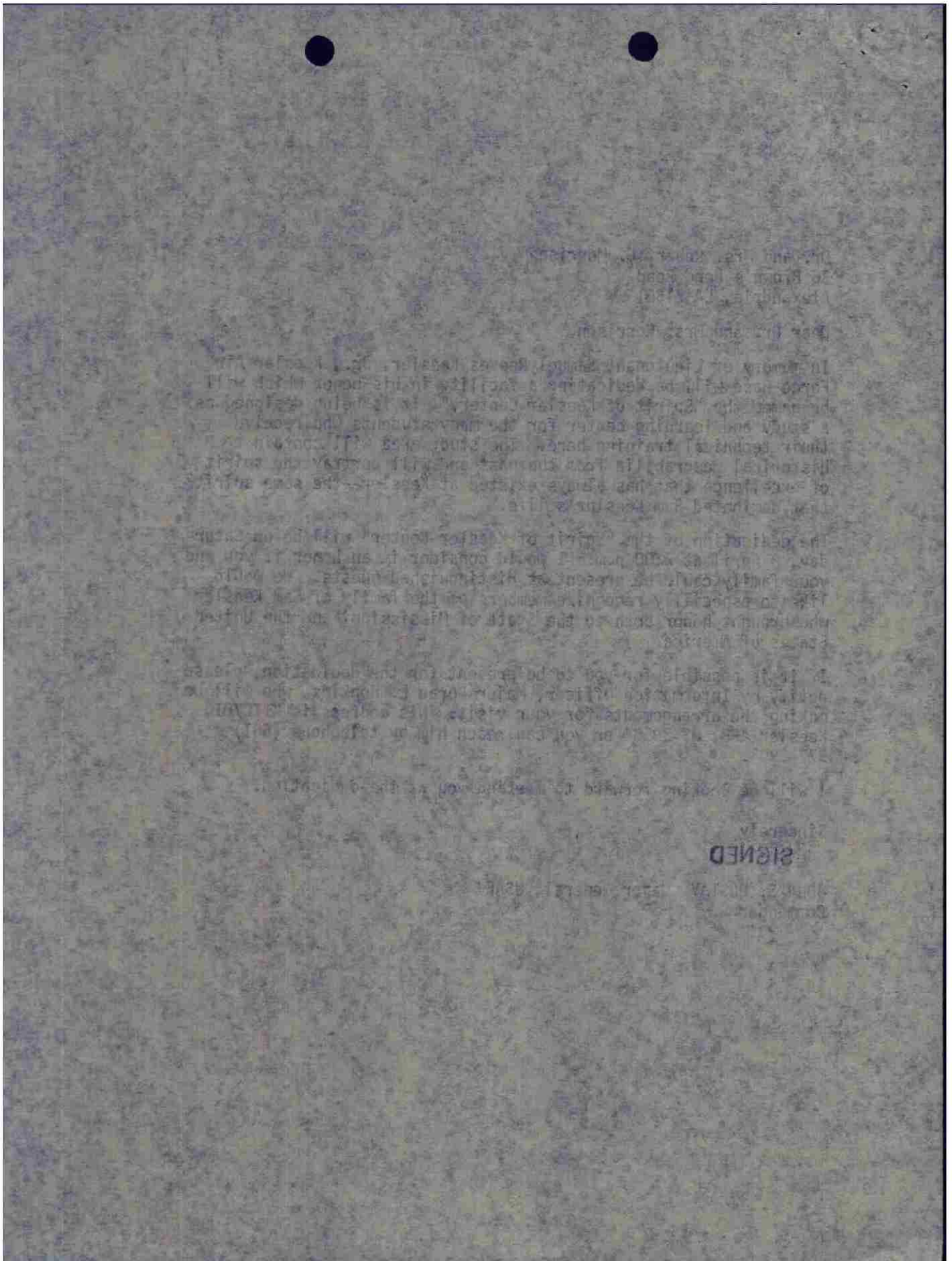
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JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolf  
5825 Navaho Trail  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wolf

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

The dedication of the "Spirit of Keesler Center" will be on Saturday, 8 April at 2:00 p.m. I would consider it an honor if you and your family could be present as distinguished guests. We would like to especially recognize members of the family of Sam Keesler who brought honor both to the State of Mississippi and the United States of America.

If it is possible for you to be present for the dedication, please notify my Information Officer, Major Doran L. Hopkins, who will be making the arrangements for your visit. His address is KTTC/OI, Keesler AFB, MS 39534 or you can reach him by telephone (601) 377-3901.

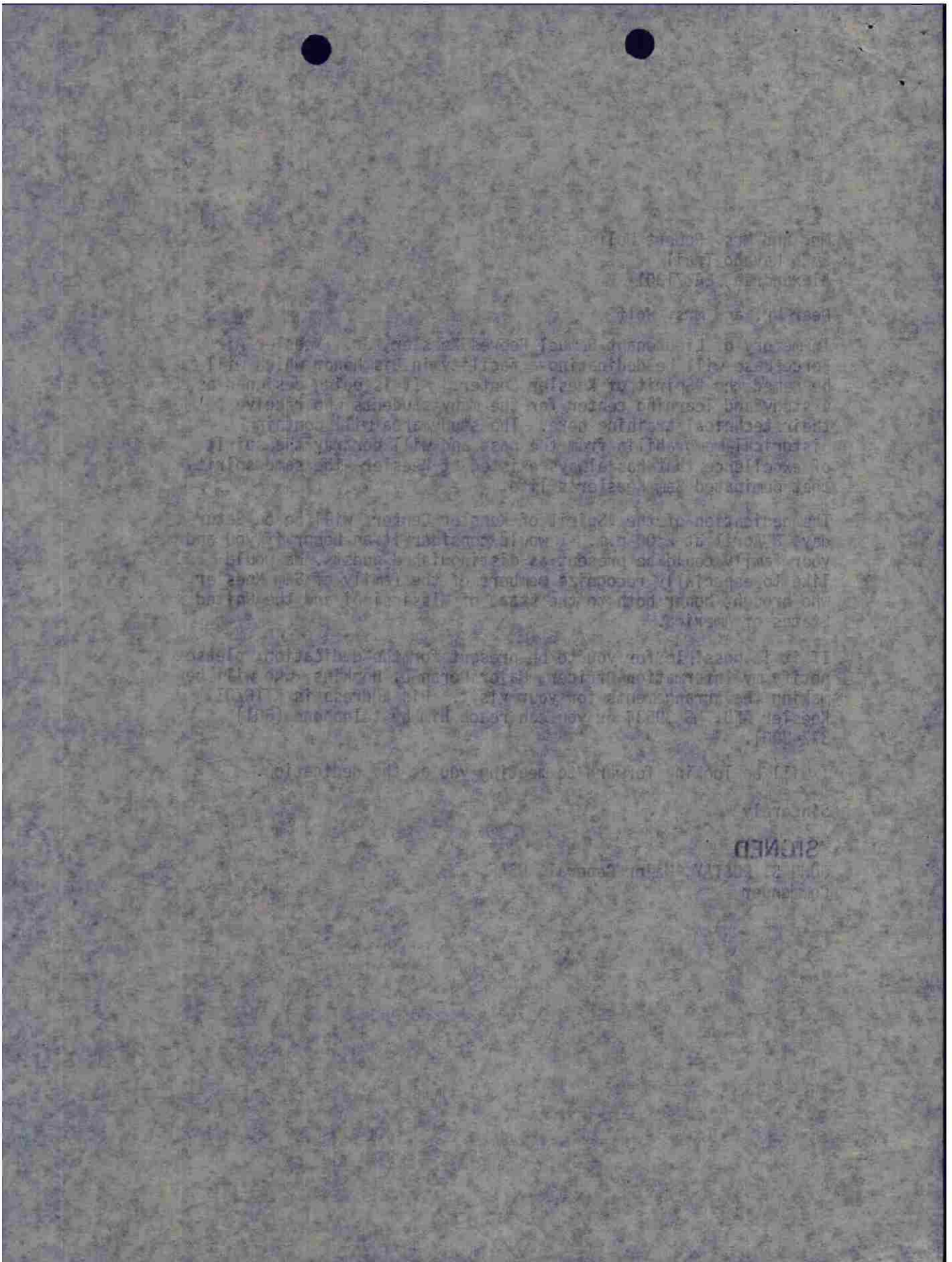
I will be looking forward to meeting you at the dedication.

Sincerely

**SIGNED**

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Miller  
5812 Hiawatha Court  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Miller

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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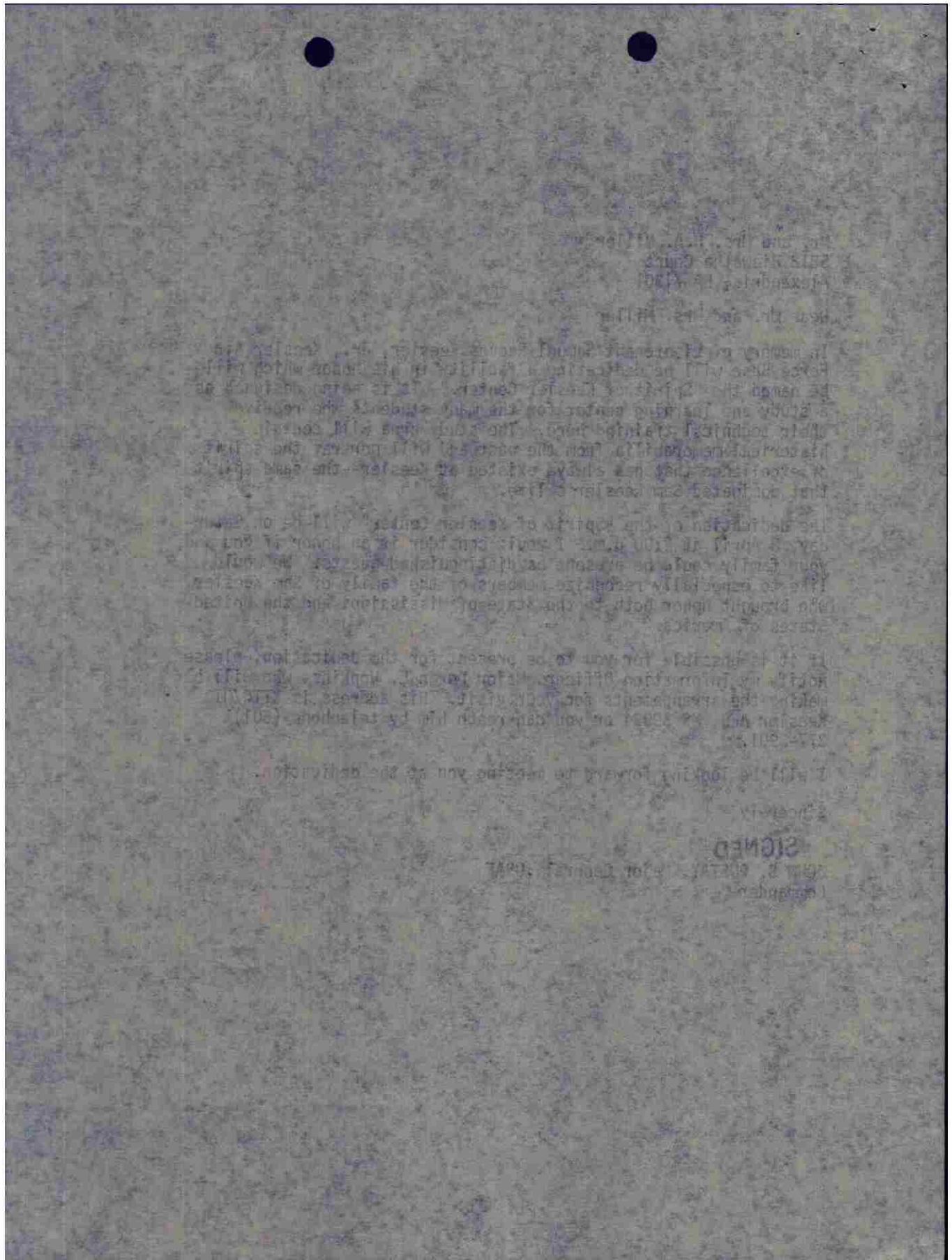
I will be looking forward to meeting you at the dedication.

Sincerely

**SIGNED**

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





Mr. John L. Pitts, Jr.  
2300 Horseshoe Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mr. Pitts

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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I will be looking forward to meeting you at the dedication.

Sincerely

**SIGNED**

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





Mr. and Mrs. J. Legrand Everett, IV  
743 Mancil Road  
Strafford-Wayne, PA 19087

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Everett

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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Sincerely

**SIGNED**

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander



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SIGNED

...

Mr. and Mrs. John N. Boulware  
4307 Newport Drive  
Richmond, VA 23227

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Boulware

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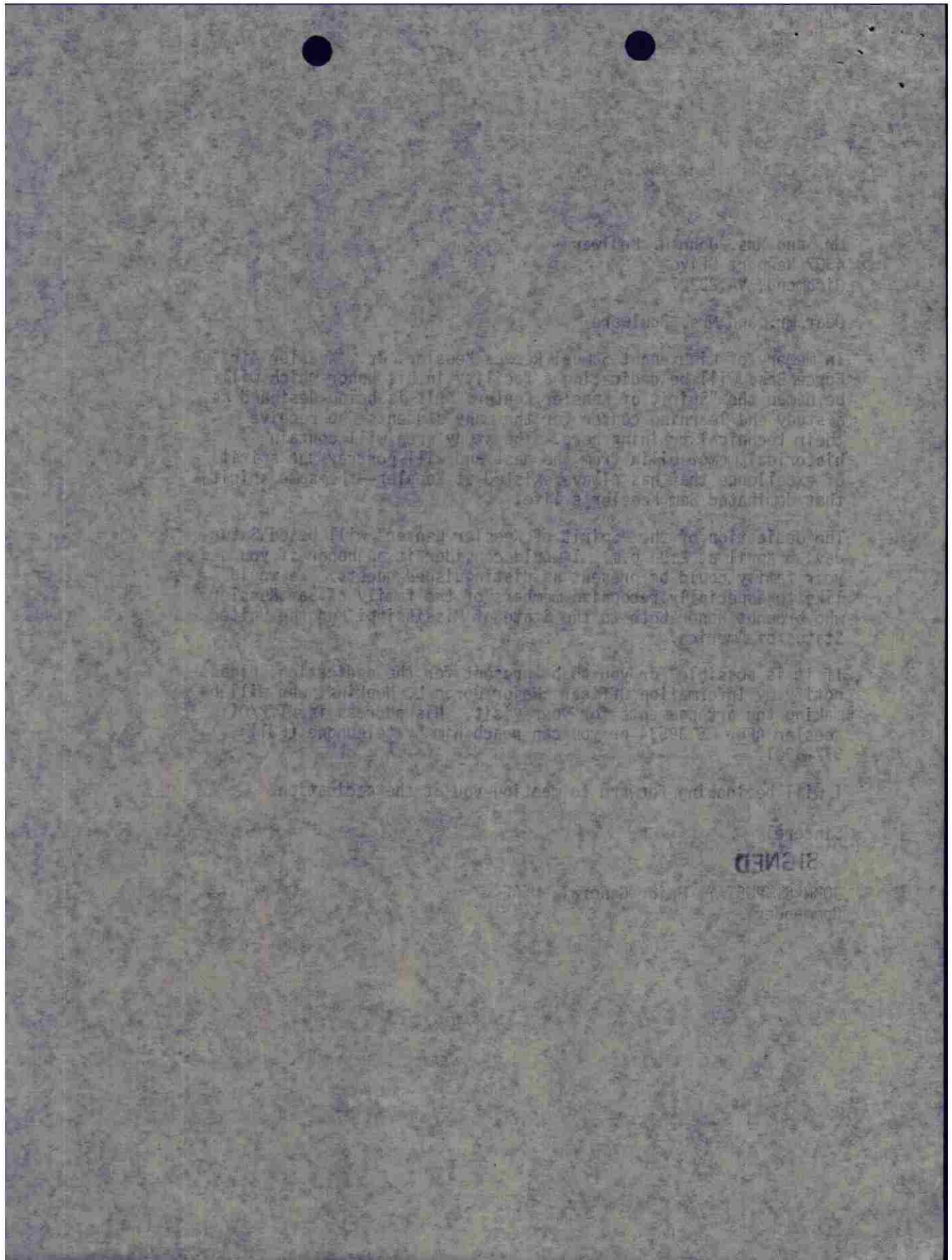
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Sincerely

**SIGNED**

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





Mr. and Mrs. William Keesler  
507 Sixth Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keesler

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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I will be looking forward to meeting you at the dedication.

Sincerely

**SIGNED**  
JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander





Dr. and Mrs. W. Straehle  
4034 Crescent Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Straehle

In memory of Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., Keesler Air Force Base will be dedicating a facility in his honor which will be named the "Spirit of Keesler Center." It is being designed as a study and learning center for the many students who receive their technical training here. The study area will contain historical memorabilia from the past and will portray the spirit of excellence that has always existed at Keesler--the same spirit that dominated Sam Keesler's life.

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Sincerely

**SIGNED**

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander



10 March 1978

Mr. and Mrs. William Keesler  
507 Sixth Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keesler

By this time, I hope you have received General Pustay's invitation for the dedication of the Spirit of Keesler Center. As General Pustay mentioned in his letter, the center is a study and learning center for the students here. In addition, it will have pictures and displays showing the history of the base. The center is not a library with volumes of books. Instead, it is a study area where students will have access to videotapes which they can use to learn more about their chosen careers. The center also has a small auditorium and work areas for the students.

As I mentioned on the telephone, we have arranged for a retired officer in Cleveland to bring you to Biloxi and take you back home to Cleveland. He is Lawton Owens, who is now a professor at Delta State College. His address is 507 Canal Ave., Cleveland and his telephone at home is 843-3882 and his office number is 843-8018. He should be contacting you in a few days.

I have made arrangements for you to stay at Keesler for the nights of 7-8 April. I think it would be best for you to drive down Friday so that you can be rested for the events on Saturday. As soon as I have a schedule of events, I will mail it to you.

I have enclosed a base guide which you may find interesting.

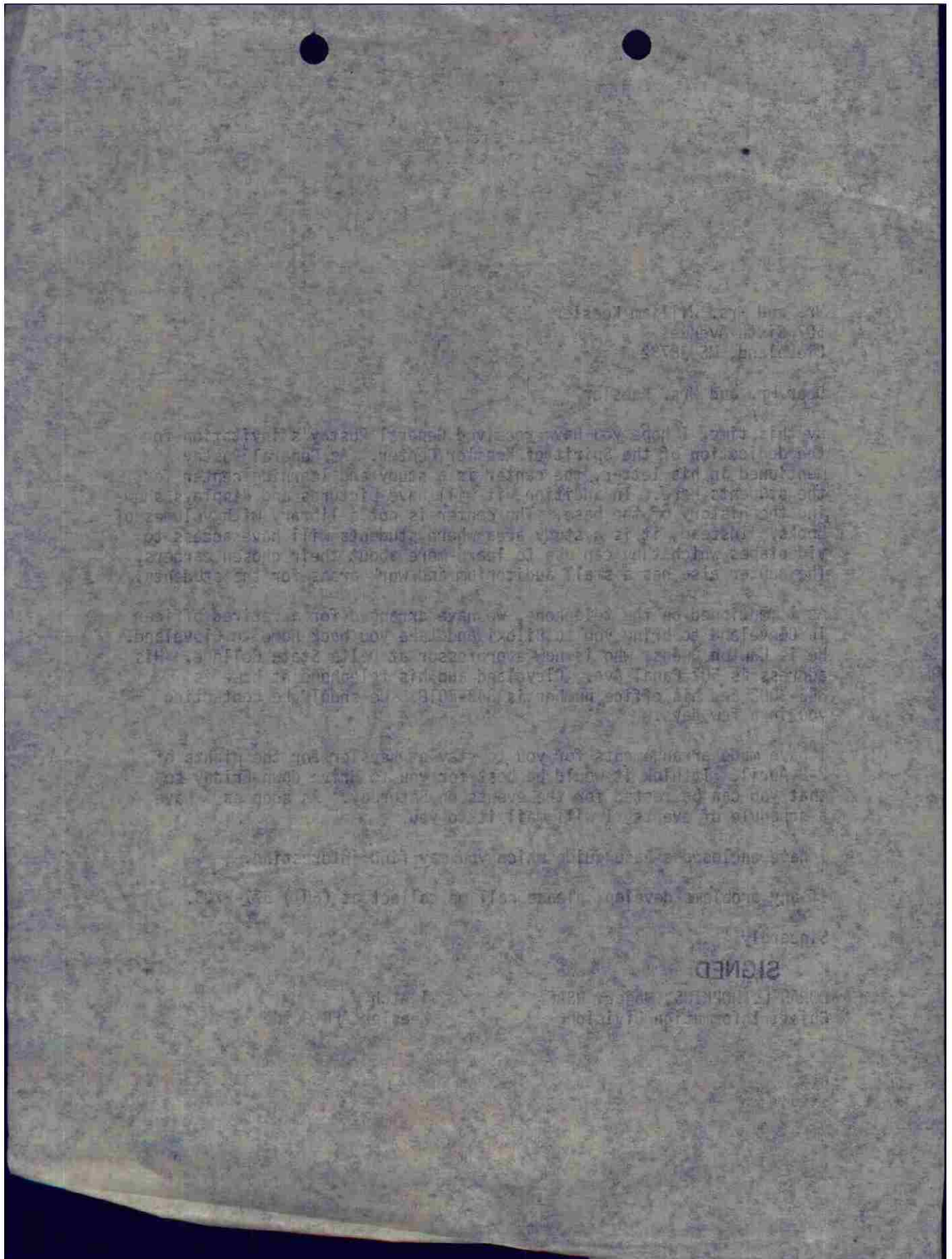
If any problems develop, please call me collect at (601) 377-2783.

Sincerely

**SIGNED**

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Guide





10 March 1978

Major Lawton K. Owens  
USAR Ret.  
507 Canal Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732

Dear Major Owens

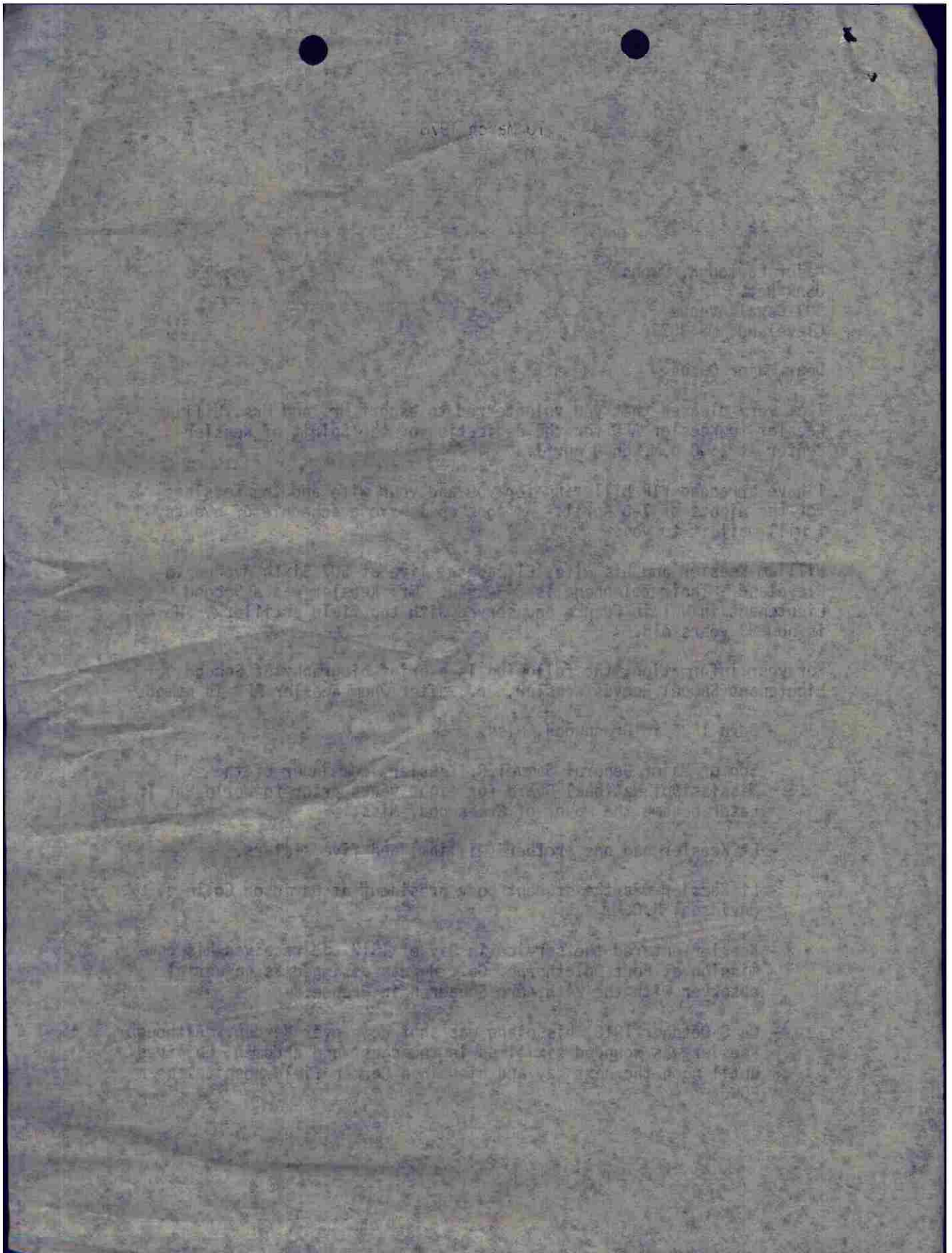
I am very pleased that you volunteered to escort Mr. and Mrs. William Keesler to Keesler AFB for the dedication of the Spirit of Keesler Center at 2:00 p.m. on 8 April.

I have arranged VIP billeting for you and your wife and the Keeslers for the nights of 7-8 April. As soon as I have a schedule of events, I will mail it to you.

William Keesler and his wife, Elizabeth, live at 507 Sixth Avenue in Cleveland. Their telephone is 843-2940. Mr. Keesler was a Second Lieutenant in WWI in France and served with the field artillery. He is now 83 years old.

For your information, the following is a brief biography of Second Lieutenant Samuel Reeves Keesler, Jr., after whom Keesler AFB is named.

- Born 1896 in Greenwood, Miss.
- Son of Major General Samuel R. Keesler, commander of the Mississippi National Guard for eight years prior to World War I. Later became the mayor of Greenwood, Miss.
- Lt Keesler had one brother (William) and five sisters.
- Lt Keesler was the student body president at Davidson College, Davidson, N.C.
- Keesler entered the service in May of 1917 and received his commission at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. He was assigned as an aerial observer with the 24th Aero Squadron in France.
- On 8 October 1918, his plane was shot down over Verdun. Although Keesler was wounded six times in the chest and abdomen, he lived until noon the next day and died in a German field hospital as a POW.





- Keesler Field was activated on 12 June 1941 as a result of the land being given to the government by the City of Biloxi.
- The base was dedicated on 27 February 1943 in honor of Lt Keesler. His parents were in attendance.

I have told Mr. and Mrs. Keesler that you will be contacting them concerning the trip to Keesler. If any problems develop, please call me collect at (601) 377-2783.

I am enclosing a base guide for your information.

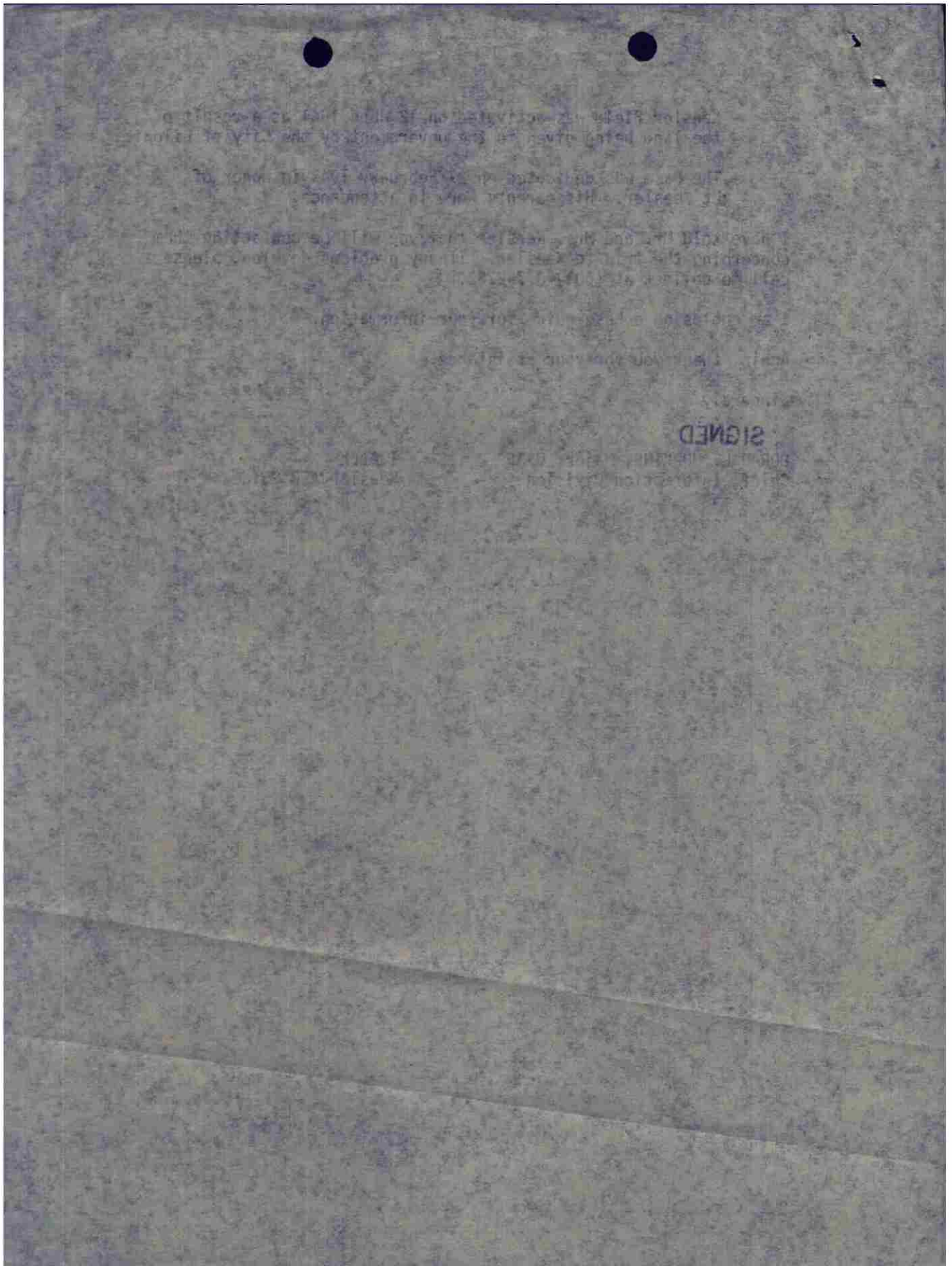
Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely

**SIGNED**

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Guide





#2  
Mrs. John N. Boulware  
4307 Newport Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23227

March 15<sup>th</sup> / 1978

Dear General Pustay;

Thank you for your gracious invitation to attend the dedication of the "Spirit of Keeler Center" on April 8<sup>th</sup>. I wish, with all my heart, that Mr. Boulware and I could be with you at that time, but, due to the varied complaints of old age, we just can't make the trip. I hope some member of our family can be there to enjoy such a happy occasion. As I grow into a very old lady, I remember Sam so vividly and I feel this new Center is a glowing tribute to his memory. He was gentle, kind, patient and wise, for one so young, but a fierce competitor and a great fighter. He had planned to devote his life to the teaching of young men, so his spirit will always hover over the "Spirit of Keeler Center" and bless it. We appreciate your thinking of us and even tho we are miles away, our hearts will be with you on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,  
Charlotte Keeler Boulware

her comments about her brother's spirit is completely true, reflect the values that we are trying to instill in the young men & women here at Keeler

CCE  
CCP  
CV  
CC

27 March 1978

Attached is a typewritten copy of handwritten letter from Lt Keesler's niece giving names and addresses of the Keesler family.

We may want to send written invitations to all the Keesler family at the time of the dedication.

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Ltr



COPY

2/24/78

Mrs. Ed Hunter Steele  
Rosemary-on-the-Tallahatchie--Greenwood, Mississippi

Dear Sir,

It has always been an honor to our family that Keesler Air Force Base was named after Sam. We are again thrilled to hear from you that a library will carry his name.

Following is a list of names and addresses of relatives of Sam Keesler and how they are kin.

I. William (Sam's brother) and Elizabeth Keesler, Cleveland, Miss. (you have)

1. Daughter - Betty Keesler  
Mr. and Mrs. William T. Straehle  
4034 Crescent Rd.  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

II. Mrs. Lanier Pratt. (Ella Fountain Keesler)

III. Mrs. Monroe Gilmour. (Mary Nash Keesler)

IV. Mrs. John Bowlware. (Charlotte Keesler) (Ella Fountain is sending you II, III and IV names' addresses and their children. These are Sam Keesler's sisters.)

V. Mr. John Lawrence Pitts  
2300 Horseshoe Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Isabel Keesler (recently deceased wife of John Pitts) - sister of Sam.

1. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolfe  
5825 Navaho Trail  
Alexandria, La. 71301

Clara Wise Pitts (wife of Robert Wolfe and niece of Sam)

2. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. (Tony) Miller  
5812 Hiawatha Court  
Alexandria, La. 71301

(Isabel Keesler Pitts - wife of Tony and niece of Sam)

3. Dr. and Mrs. R.C. (Robert) Morrison  
36 Brown's Bend Rd.  
Alexandria, La. 71301

Charlot Keesler Pitts (wife of Robert Morrison and niece of Sam)

- VI. Mrs. Ethel Keesler Duncan (Sam's sister)  
201 East Cleveland  
Greenwood, Miss. 38930

1. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. (Jimmy) Seawright  
155 Wooster St.  
New York, New York 10012

(Mimi) Mabell Garrard Seawright (daughter of Ethel and niece of Sam)

2. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hunter Steele  
1440 Grand Blvd.  
Greenwood, Miss. 38930

Charlotte Keesler Garrard Steele (daughter of Ethel and niece of Sam)

Hope this is not too confusing and that you can read it. I wish I could type.

Looking forward to seeing you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Charlotte G. Steele



**Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church**

Southern Pines, North Carolina 28387

March 28, 1978

Maj. Doran L. Hopkins  
Information Officer  
KTTC/01  
Keesler Air Force Base  
Mississippi 39534

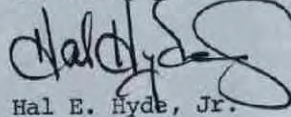
Dear Major Hopkins:

Let me express my appreciation for your invitation to attend the dedication of the new Keesler Training Center. I find that my schedule will permit my wife, Betsy and me to be present for this great occasion in the Keesler family.

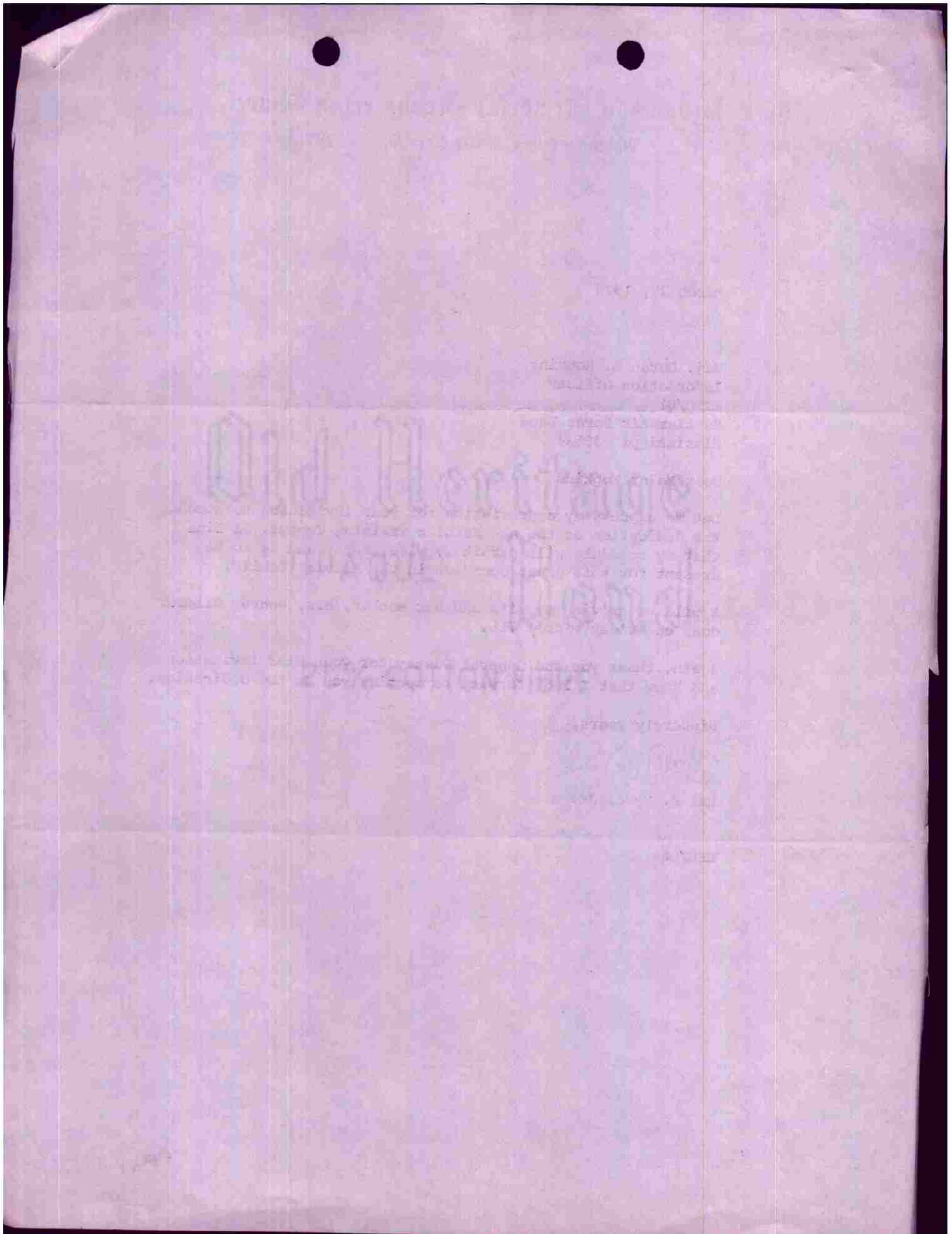
I will be driving my wife and her mother, Mrs. Monroe Gilmour down on Friday, April 7th.

Again, thank you and General Pustay for your kind invitation and know that I look forward to meeting you at the dedication.

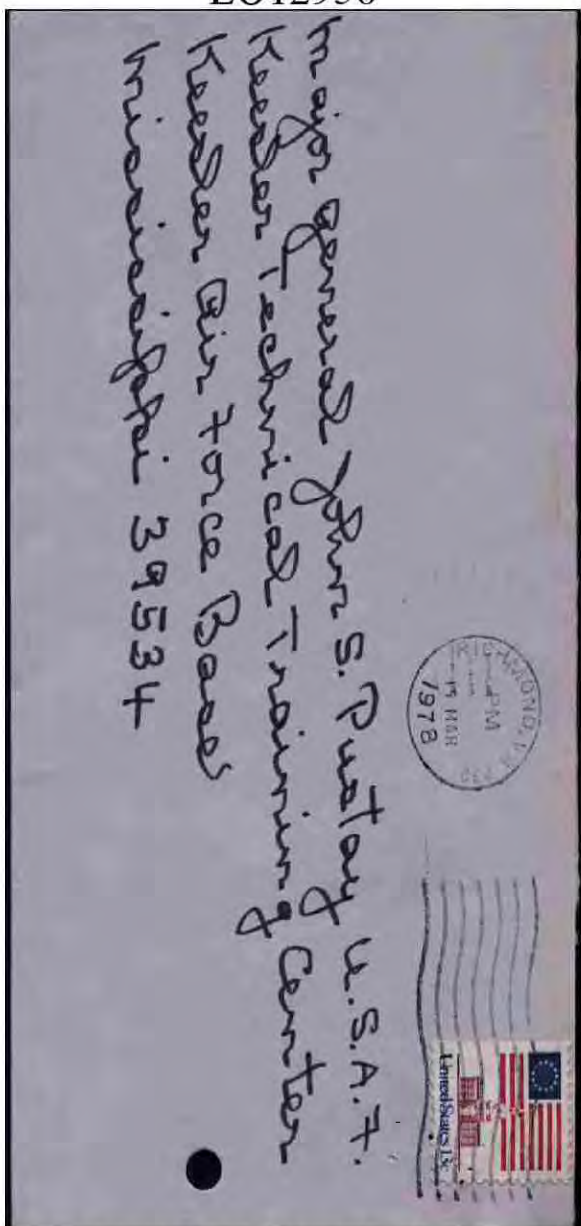
Sincerely yours,

  
Hal E. Hyde, Jr.

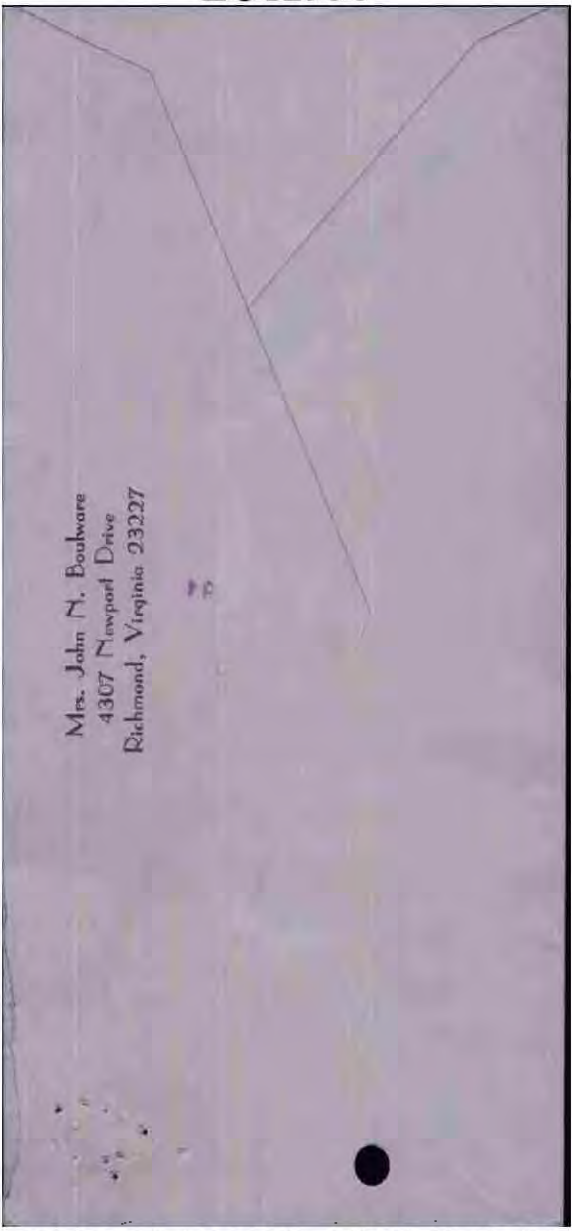
HEH/pt







THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW  
EO12958



Mrs. John N. Boulware  
4307 Newport Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23227

THIS PAGE DECLASSIFIED IAW  
EO12958



OFFICE OF INFORMATION

KEESLER AFB, MS

TO: CCE *mw*  
CV *J*  
CC

29 March 1978

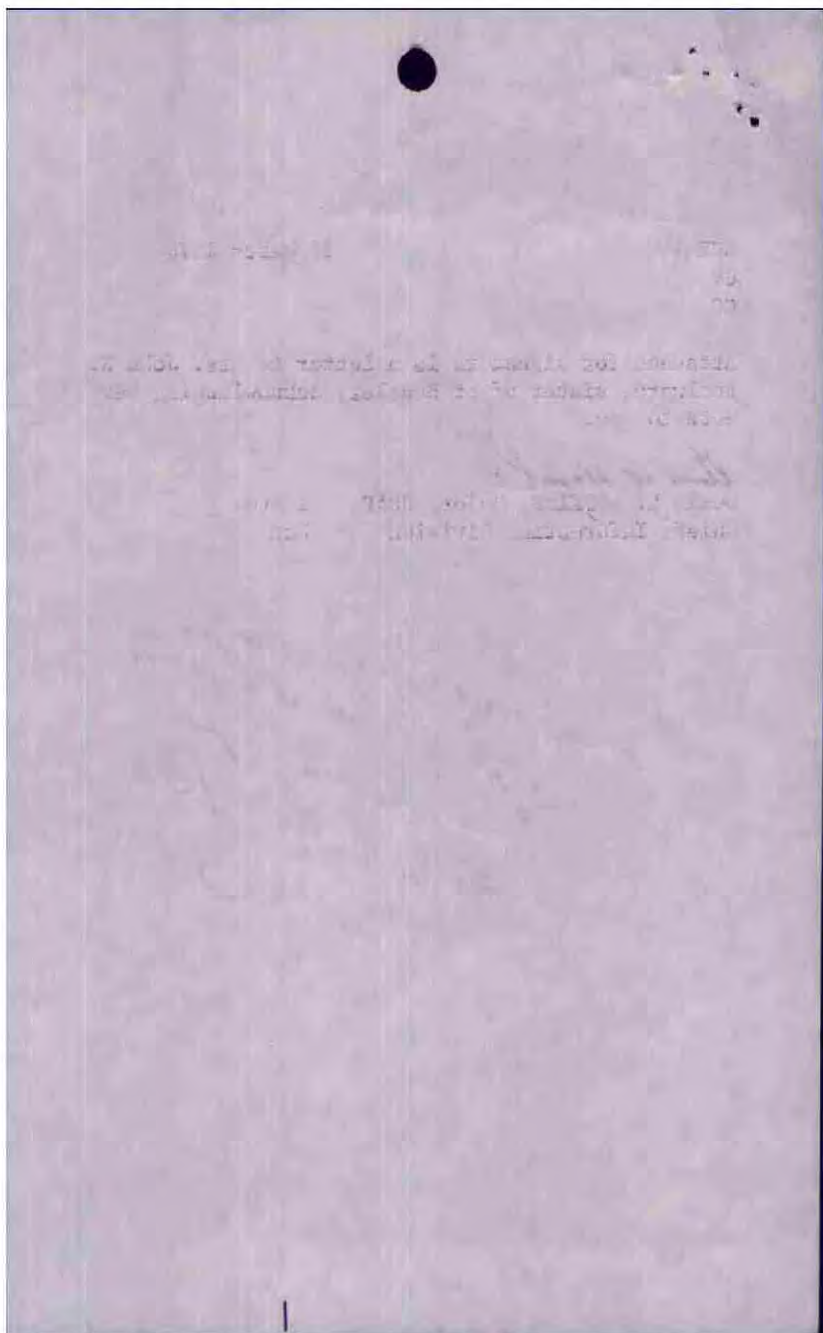
Attached for signature is a letter to Mrs. John N. Boulware, sister of Lt Keesler, acknowledging her note to you.

*Doran L. Hopkins*

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
ltr

*Let me keep copy  
of the unit  
materials for  
speech for the  
event. P*





HEADQUARTERS  
KEESLER TECHNICAL  
TRAINING CENTER

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER



DATE:

*27 Mar*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

*DCT (action)  
Protocol (info)*

*P*

*Charlie*

~~*Please see one copy*~~ *27 MAR 78* *for CHM*

~~*CCP is forwarded*~~ *copy to DCT.*

*me*





Mrs. John N. Boulware  
4307 Newport Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23227

Dear Mrs. Boulware

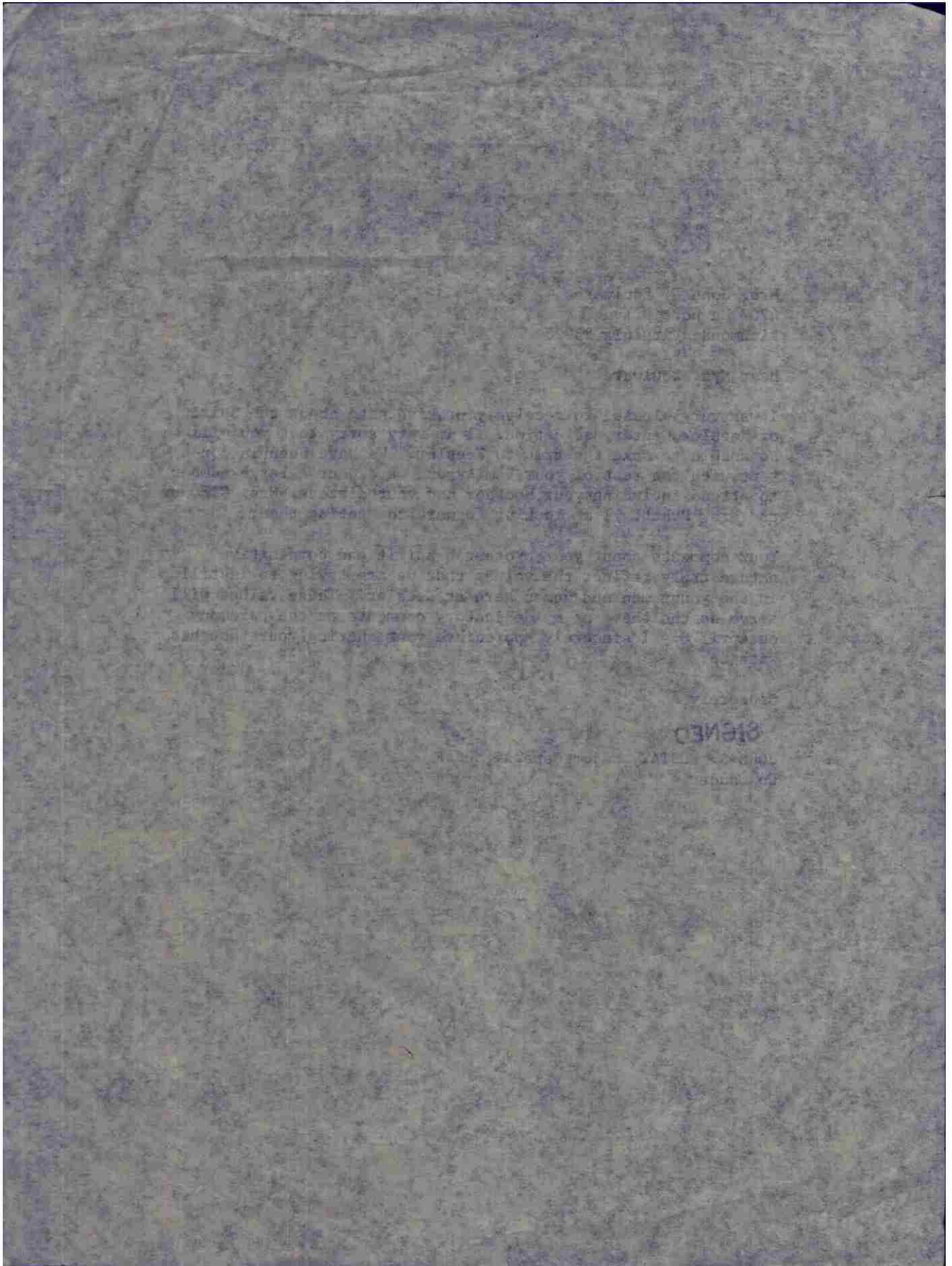
I was very pleased to receive your kind note about the Spirit of Keesler Center dedication. I am very sorry that you will be unable to make the trip to Keesler. We have been in contact with the rest of your family and we expect a large number to attend including your brother and your sisters, Mrs. Gilmour and Mrs. Pratt. I am looking forward to meeting them.

Your comments about your brother's spirit and competitive nature truly reflect the values that we are trying to instill in the young men and women here at Keesler. These values will serve as the theme of my dedicatory comments at the ceremony on April 8. I sincerely appreciate your sharing your thoughts with me.

Sincerely

**SIGNED**

JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander







KEESLER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER  
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI 39534

31 MAR 1978

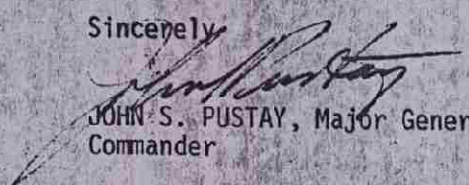
Mrs. John N. Boulware  
4307 Newport Drive  
Richmond, Virginia 23227

Dear Mrs. Boulware

I was very pleased to receive your kind note about the Spirit of Keesler Center dedication. I am very sorry that you will be unable to make the trip to Keesler. We have been in contact with the rest of your family and we expect a large number to attend including your brother and your sisters, Mrs. Gilmour and Mrs. Pratt. I am looking forward to meeting them.

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Sincerely,

  
JOHN S. PUSTAY, Major General, USAF  
Commander

*very happy*



29 March 1978

Major Lawton K. Owens  
USAR, Ret.  
507 Canel Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732

Dear Major Owens

To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you and your wife at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. There will be no charge for your room.

The facilities of the Officers Club, which is within walking distance of Shaw House, will be available to you for your meal Friday evening. We will provide transportation for you Saturday morning for breakfast at the NCO Club. We are also planning a tour for you of the base after breakfast. You will find a schedule in your room.

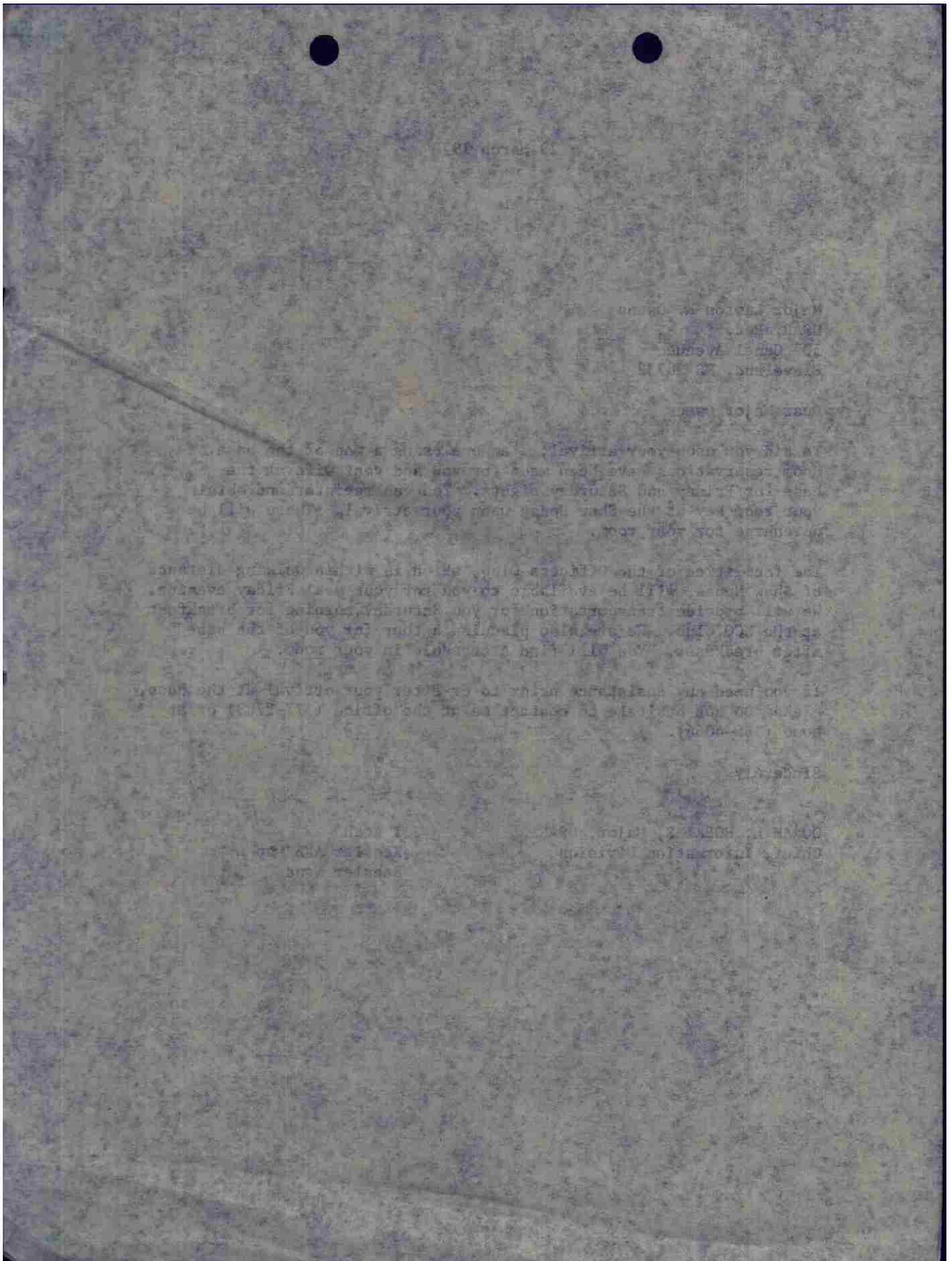
If you need any assistance prior to or after your arrival at the base, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office (377-2783) or at home (388-4066).

Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS KEESLER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER (ATC)  
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI 39534



29 March 1978

Mr. and Mrs. William Keesler  
507 Sixth Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732

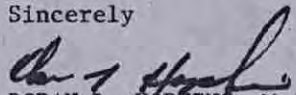
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keesler

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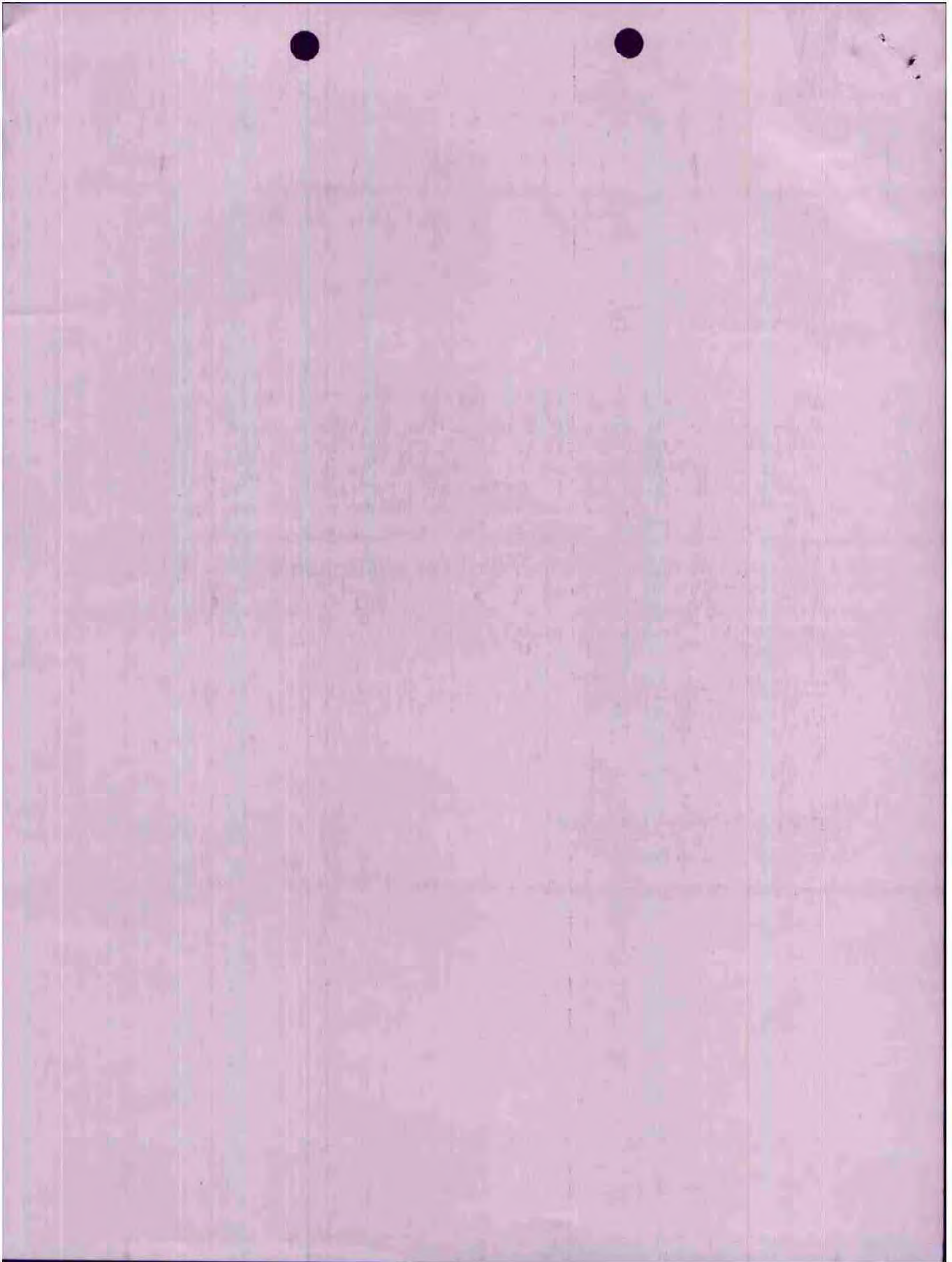
Sincerely

  
DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News

AIR FORCE—A GREAT WAY OF LIFE





3 April 1978

Mrs. Betty Straehle  
4034 Crescent Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Mrs. Straehle

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. The cost of the rooms will be \$4.00 per night. Arrangements have been made to pick you up at the Gulfport Airport at 11:00 a.m. on 7 April.

The facilities of the Officers Club, which is within walking distance of Shaw House, will be available to you for your meal Friday evening. We will provide transportation for you Saturday morning for breakfast at the NCO Club. We are also planning a tour for you of the base after breakfast. You will find a schedule in your room.

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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News

*Reading*



3 April 1978

Mrs. Betty Straehle  
4034 Crescent Road  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

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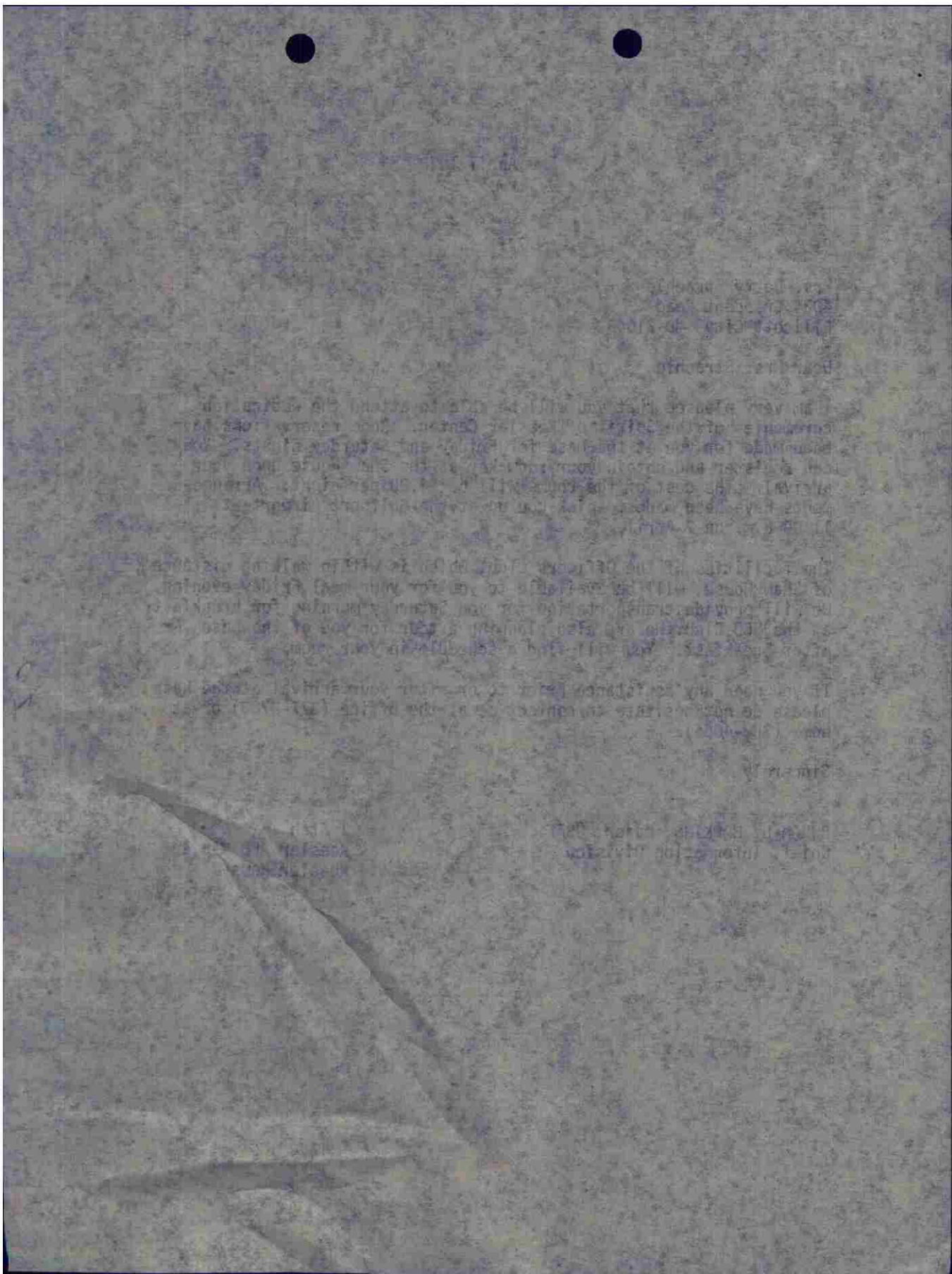
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DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News

20





29 March 1978

Mr. and Mrs. William Keesler  
507 Sixth Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keesler

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. There will be no charge for your room.

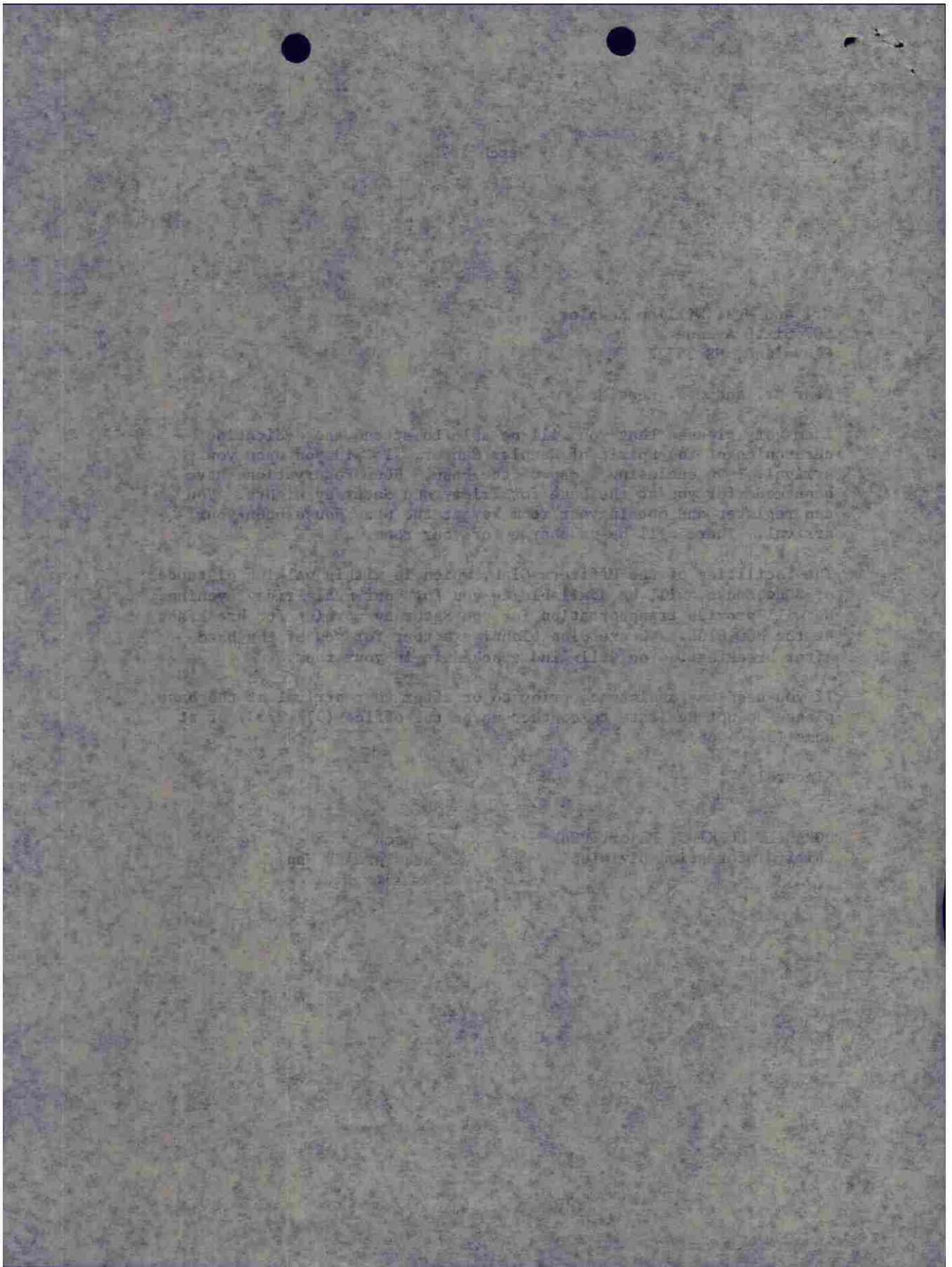
The facilities of the Officers Club, which is within walking distance of Shaw House, will be available to you for your meal Friday evening. We will provide transportation for you Saturday morning for breakfast at the NCO Club. We are also planning a tour for you of the base after breakfast. You will find a schedule in your room.

If you need any assistance prior to or after your arrival at the base, please do not hesitate to contact me at the office (377-2783) or at home (388-4066).

Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News





29 March 1978

Mr. John Pitts, Jr.  
2300 Horseshoe Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mr. Pitts

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. There will be no charge for your room.

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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News

29 March 1978

Mrs. Monroe Gilmour  
934 Granville Road  
Charlotte, NC 28207

Dear Mrs. Gilmour

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. There will be no charge for your room.

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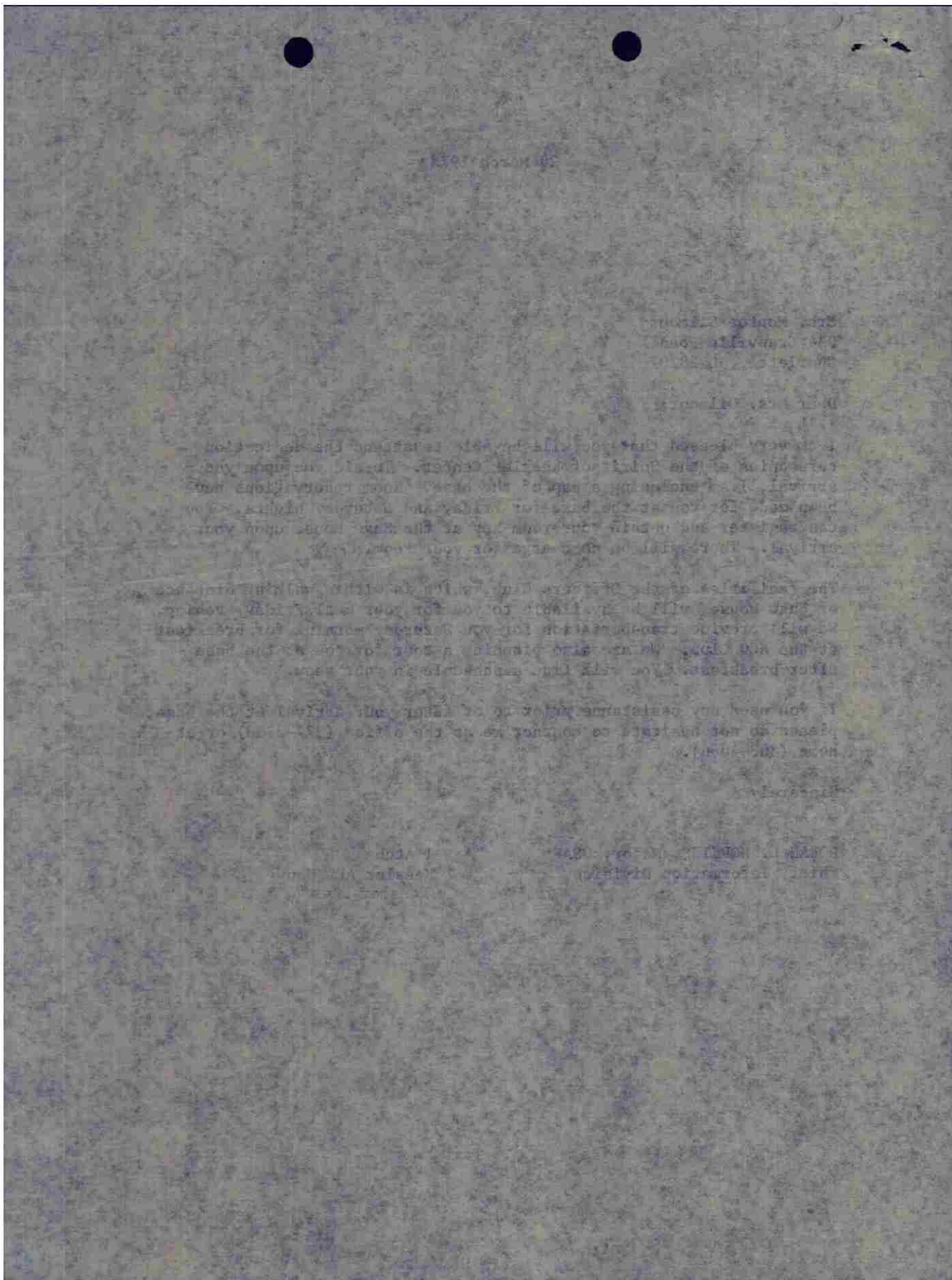
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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News





29 March 1978

Mrs. Lanier Pratt  
1109 Woodburn Road  
Durham, NC 27705

Dear Mrs. Pratt

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. There will be no charge for your room.

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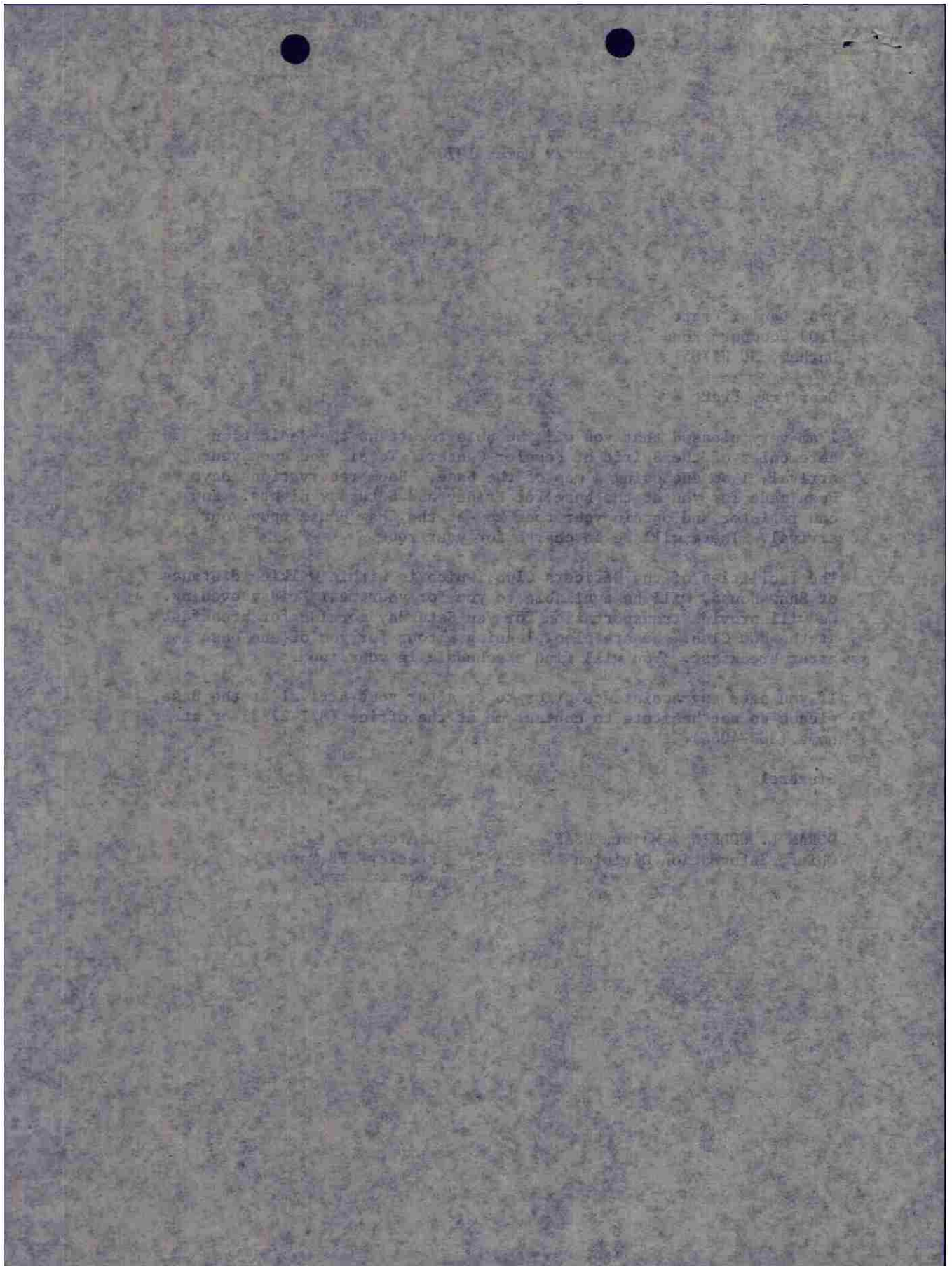
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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News





29 March 1978

Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Morrison  
36 Brown's Bend Road  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Morrison

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. The cost of the rooms will be \$4.00 per person per night.

The facilities of the Officers Club, which is within walking distance of Shaw House, will be available to you for your meal Friday evening. We will provide transportation for you Saturday morning for breakfast at the NCO Club. We are also planning a tour for you of the base after breakfast. You will find a schedule in your room.

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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News



29 March 1978

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Miller  
5812 Hiawatha Court  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Miller

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. The cost of the rooms will be \$4.00 per person per night.

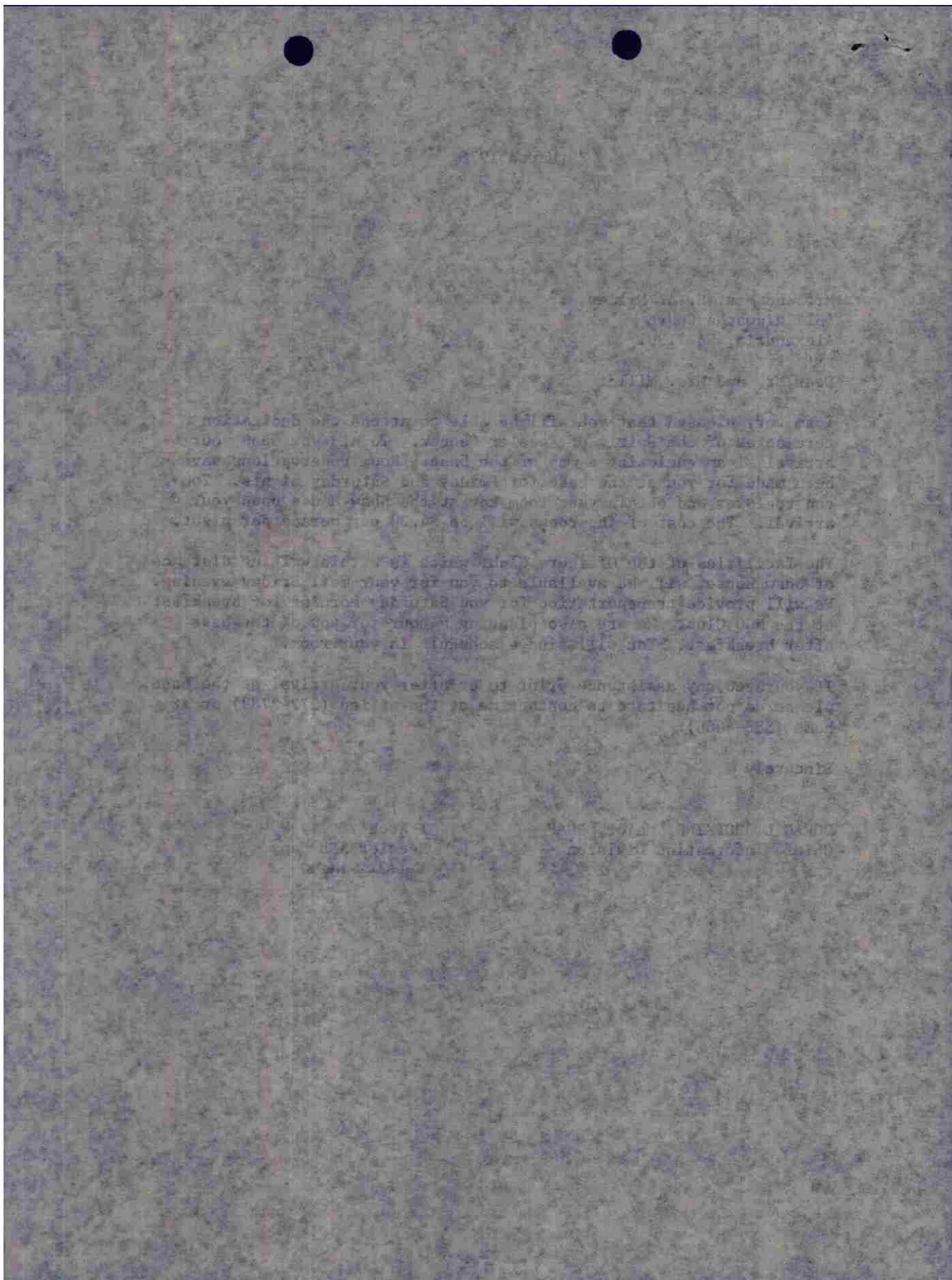
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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News





29 March 1978

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolf  
5825 Navaho Trail  
Alexandria, LA 71301

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wolf

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. The cost of the rooms will be \$4.00 per person per night.

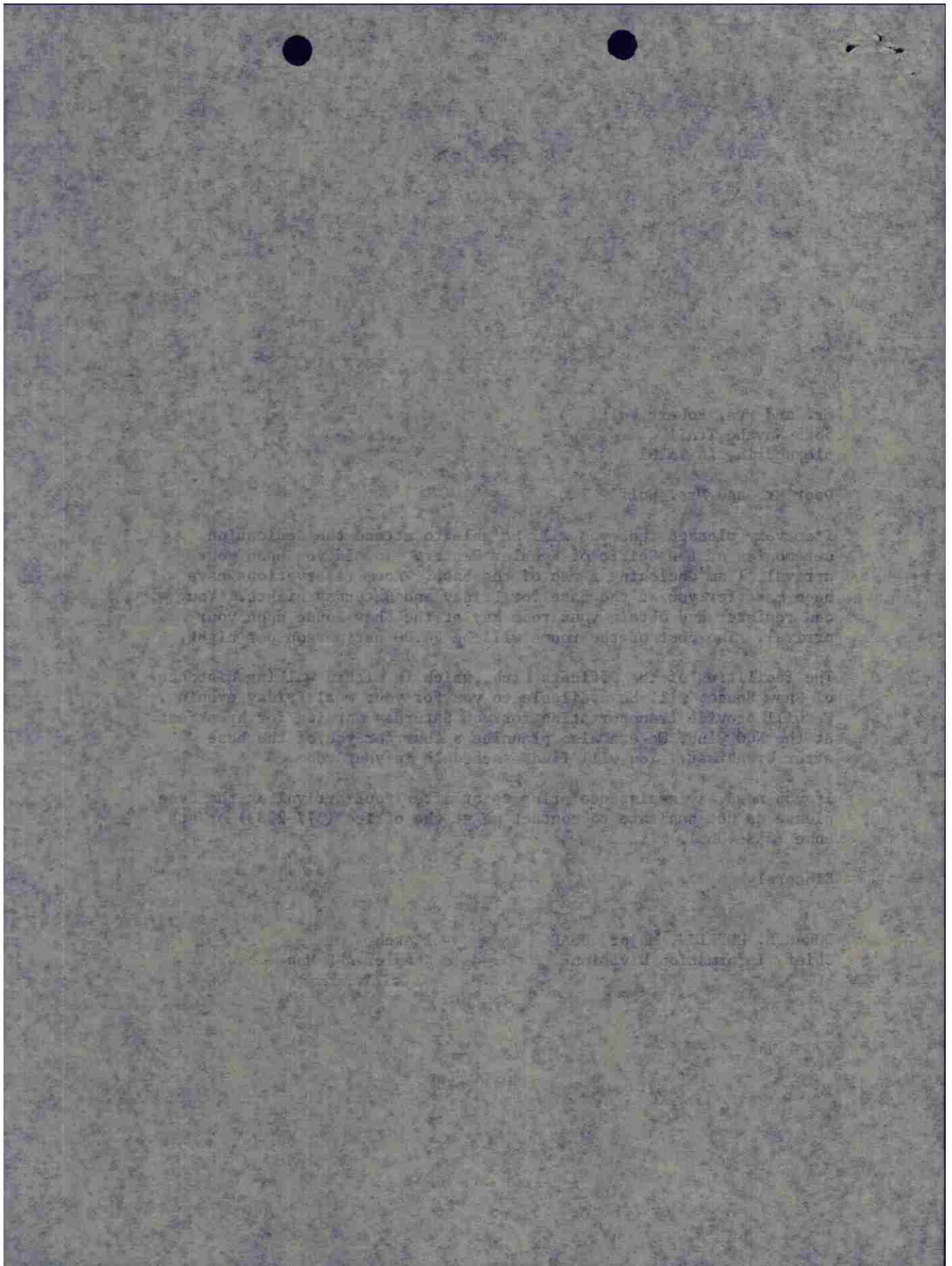
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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News





29 March 1978

The Rev. and Mrs. Hal Hyde  
126 Longleaf Road  
Southern Pines, NC 28367

Dear Rev. and Mrs. Hyde

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House upon your arrival. The cost of the rooms will be \$4.00 per person per night.

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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News

29 March 1978

Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunter Steele  
1440 Grand Blvd.  
Greenwood, MS 38930

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Steele

I am very pleased that you will be able to attend the dedication ceremonies of the Spirit of Keesler Center. To aid you upon your arrival, I am enclosing a map of the base. Room reservations have been made for you at the base for Friday and Saturday nights. You can register and obtain your room key at the Shaw House, upon your arrival. The cost of the rooms will be \$4.00 per person per night.

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Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Keesler AFB Map &  
Keesler News



CCE  
CV  
CC

30 March 1978

RE: Spirit of Keesler Dedication

Nineteen members of the Keesler family are planning to come to the dedication. We have reserved four cottages and the first floor of Shaw House for their quarters.

I have spoken by phone with members of the family and the majority of them are planning to arrive late Friday evening. Therefore, I have cancelled the Williamsburg Room for their use. Those family members who do arrive early and desire an evening meal on base will be invited to use the dining room at the Officers Club. A formal itinerary is being developed for Saturday with a tour and the Center Briefing. Breakfast will be at the NCO Club and lunch at Locker House.

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1. The first of the two main points of the report is that the United States has a long and honorable tradition of supporting human rights. This tradition is rooted in the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The second point is that the United States has a responsibility to promote human rights around the world. This responsibility is based on the fact that human rights are universal and inalienable. The report also discusses the challenges to human rights in the world today and offers suggestions for how the United States can better promote human rights.

2. The report concludes that the United States has a moral obligation to promote human rights and that this obligation is based on the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS KEESLER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER (ATC)  
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI 39534



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KTTC/OI

30 March 1978

SUBJECT: Dedication of "Spirit of Keesler Center"

TO: KTTC/LGTOD

1. About 20 distinguished guests of the base will be here 8 April 1978 to attend dedication ceremonies for the "Spirit of Keesler Center."
2. Request a 29-passenger bus be made available to transport this group for most of the day Saturday, 8 April 1978. If possible, please assign AIC Raymond W. Daigneault to drive the bus for this group.
3. The itinerary, although not yet finalized, will include the following:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
0750	Pick up group at Shaw House
0800	Breakfast at NCO Club
0930	Center Briefing at Hewes Hall
1030	Drive-around tour of the base
1115	Return to quarters
1230	Lunch at Locker House dining facility
1345	Board bus for drive to dedication ceremonies at the Spirit of Keesler Center, Bldg 7202 (formerly the CIC)
1600	Nothing currently planned, but driver and bus should be on call through the dinner hour.

4. Please refer any problems with this request to SSgt Denise Cornella at ext. 3604.

*[Signature]*  
DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

*Prepare the Man*

CCE  
CV  
CC

4 April 1978

The following public information actions have been taken in support of the Spirit of Keesler Center dedication:

a. Two separate news releases on the upcoming dedication have been sent to all Gulf Coast radio, newspaper, and TV stations. Several publications, including the Daily Herald and the South Mississippi Sun, have run stories on the dedication.

b. A letter advising the media on the dedication and offering them the opportunity to attend the ceremony and obtain interviews was sent to 26 Mississippi Gulf Coast news media outlets and to 10 other outlets in northern Mississippi and Louisiana.

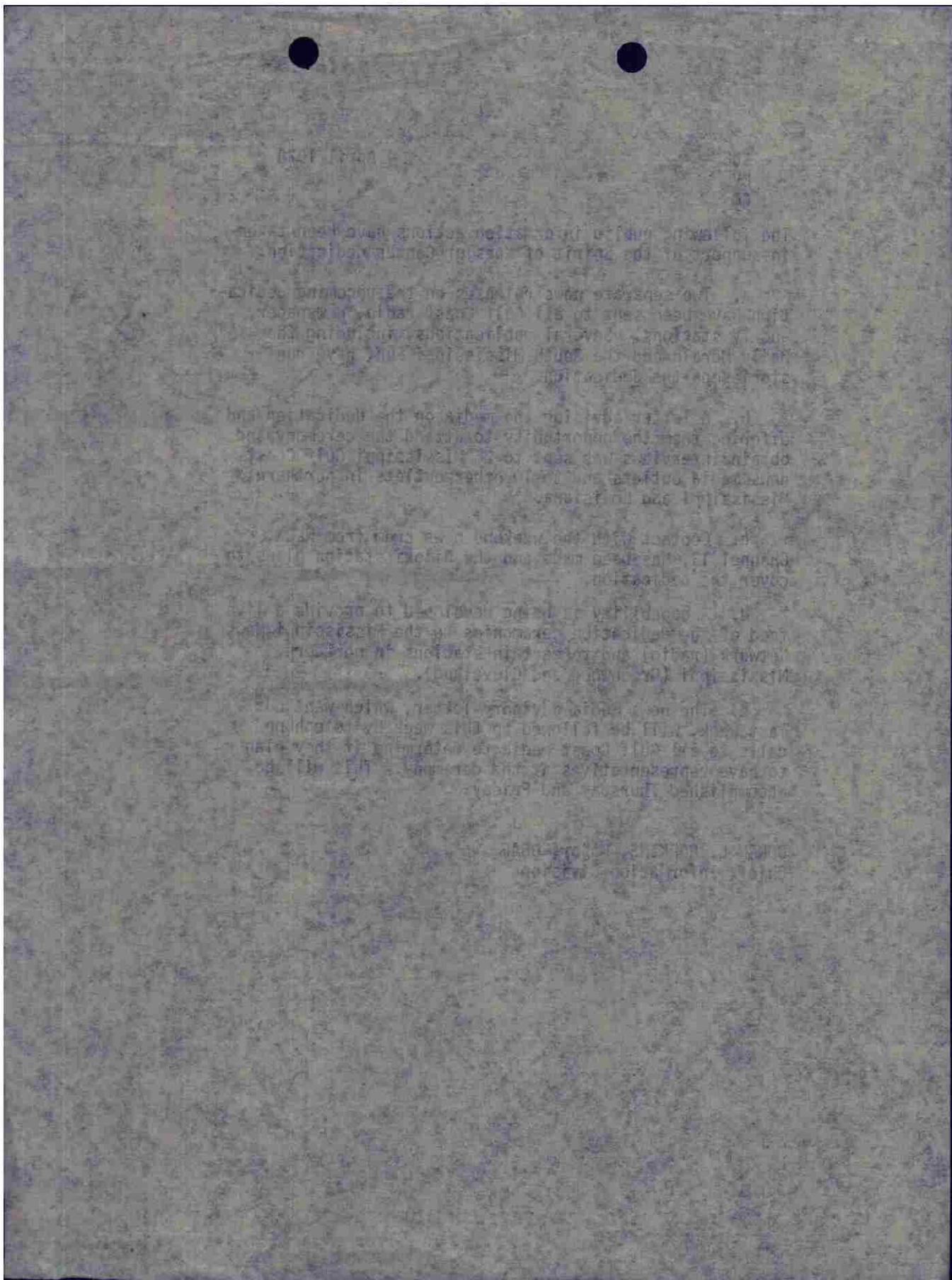
c. Contact with the weekend news crew from WLOX, Channel 13, has been made and the Biloxi station plans to cover the dedication.

d. A capability is being developed to provide a live feed of the dedication ceremonies to the Mississippi News Network (radio) and to certain stations in northern Mississippi (Greenwood and Cleveland).

e. The news media advisory letter, which went out last week, will be followed up this week by telephone calls to all Gulf Coast media to determine if they plan to have representatives at the ceremony. This will be accomplished Thursday and Friday.

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

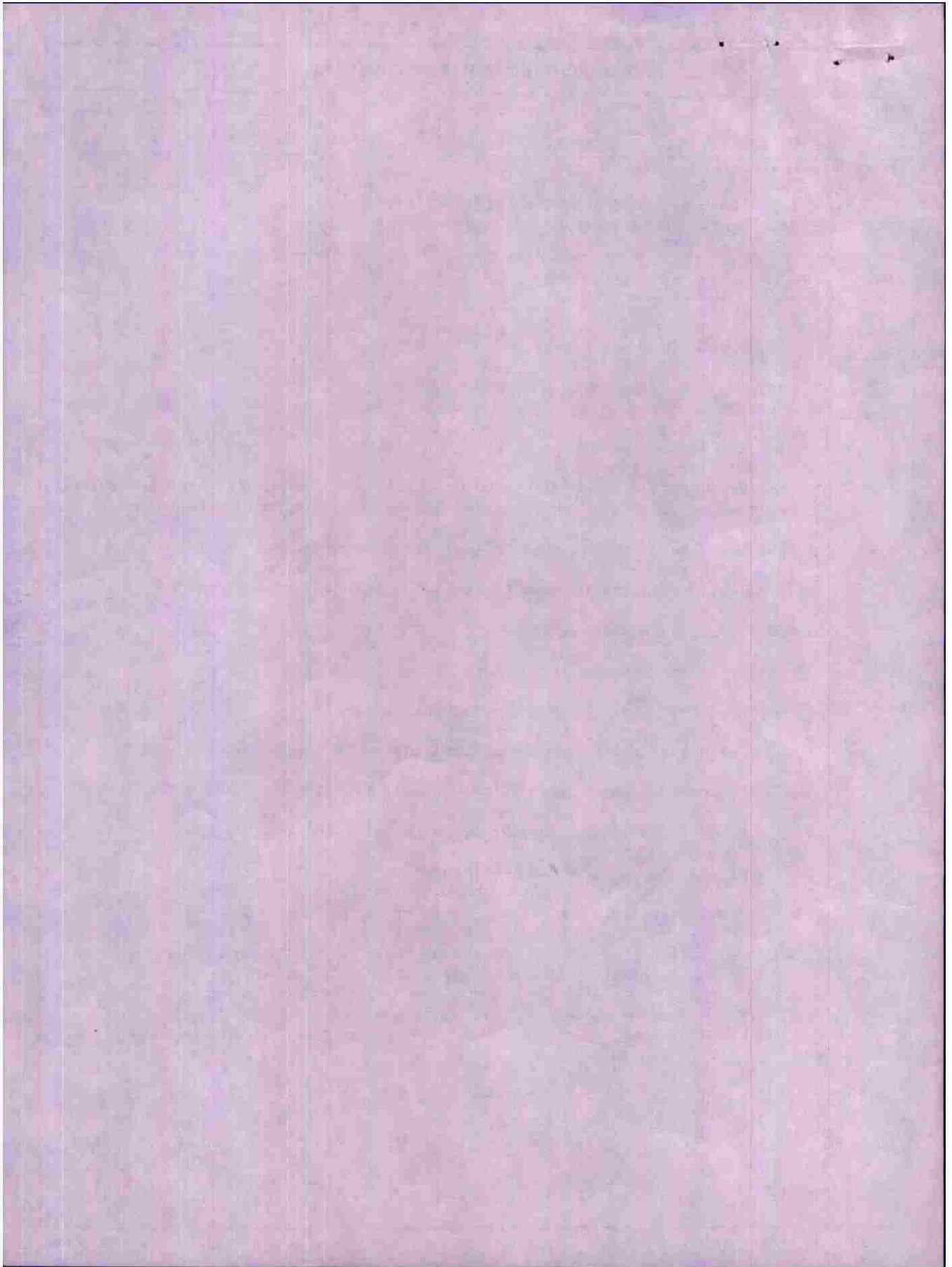




DISTINGUISHED VISITORS ITINERARY			
FOR		PERIOD COVERED	
TOUR FOR RELATIVES OF LT. SAMUEL KEESLER JR.		FROM	TO
		April 7	April 8
ESCORT OFFICERS AND PHONE NUMBERS			
Major Doran Hopkins (Home 388-4066 Office 2783) Staff Sgt. Denise Cornella (Home 435-2993 Office 3921)			
DATE	TIME	EVENT	REMARKS
Friday <u>Apr 7</u>		Arrive at Keesler AFB	
Saturday <u>Apr 8</u>			
	7:50	Air Force bus will pick the group up in front of Shaw House	
	8 a.m.	Breakfast at Noncommissioned Officers Club (No special area set aside; guests may sit anywhere in the dining room and order from the menu).	
	9:25	Board bus in front of NCO Club; drive to Hewes Hall	
	9:30	Center briefing in Hewes Hall	
	10 a.m.	Questions and answers	
	10:15	Drive-around tour of the base	
	11 a.m.	Return to Shaw House quarters; rest period	
	11:55	Board bus in front of Shaw House; drive to Locker House	
	Noon	Lunch at Locker House military dining facility	
	1:25	Board bus at Locker House; drive to Spirit of Keesler Center	
	1:35	Arrive at Spirit of Keesler Center	
	1:45	Form reception line inside Spirit of Keesler Center	
	2 p.m.	Dedication ceremonies; address by Major General John S. Pustay, commander of the Keesler Technical Training Center	
	3:30	Board bus for return to Shaw House quarters	

OIP/Alc





KTTC/OI

30 March 1978

## Dedication of "Spirit of Keesler Center"

KTTC/LGTOD

1. About 20 distinguished guests of the base will be here 8 April 1978 to attend dedication ceremonies for the "Spirit of Keesler Center."
2. Request a 29-passenger bus be made available to transport this group for most of the day Saturday, 8 April 1978. If possible, please assign AIC Raymond W. Daigneault to drive the bus for this group.
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4. Please refer any problems with this request to SSgt Denise Cornella at ext. 3604.

**SIGNED**

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division



KTTC/OI

30 March 1978

Dedication of "Spirit of Keesler Center"

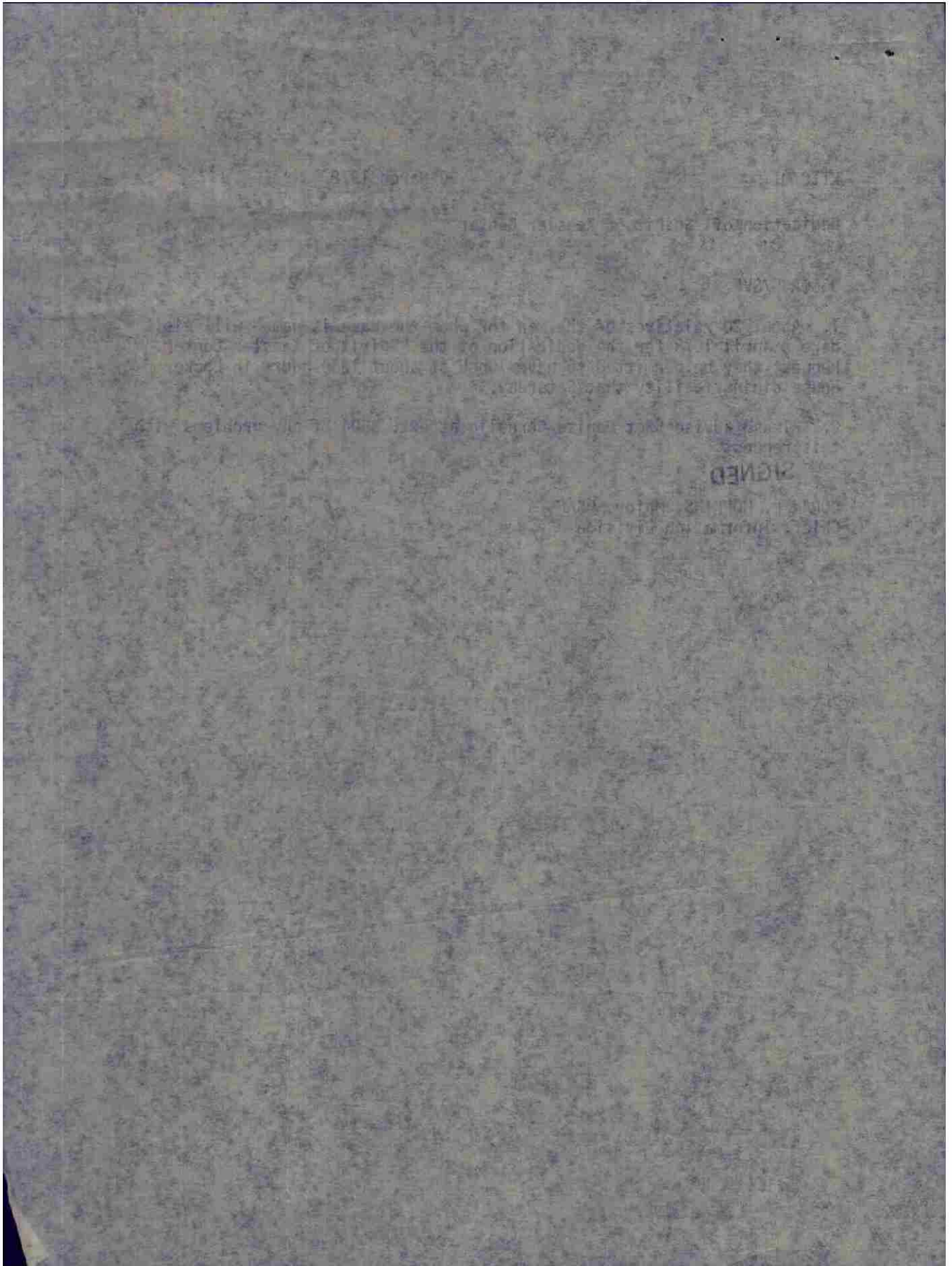
3380ABG/SVF

1. About 20 relatives of the man for whom the base is named will visit here 8 April 1978 for the dedication of the "Spirit of Keesler Center." Request they be permitted to have lunch at about 1230 hours in Locker House dining facility that Saturday.
2. Please advise SSgt Denise Cornella at ext. 3604 of any problems with this request.

SIGNED

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

010





STAFF SUMMARY SHEET						
	TO	ACTION	SIGNATURE (Surname and Grade)		TO	ACTION
1	CCE	Info	<i>[Signature]</i>	6	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	CV	Info	<i>[Signature]</i>	7	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	CC	Info	<i>[Signature]</i>	8	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
4				9		
5				10		
<p><i>A 7th day for keeping in advance want to change program before at 5:00 and 6:00.</i></p>						
SURNAME OF ACTION OFFICER AND GRADE			SYMBOL	PHONE	TYPIST'S INIT.	SUSPENSE DATE
Major Hopkins			OI	3901	csq	
SUBJECT						DATE
Spirit of Keesler Center Dedication						7 March 1978
SUMMARY						
<p>1. The purpose of this paper is to give you an update on the dedication of the "Spirit of Keesler Center". The dedication is set for 8 April at 1400 hrs.</p> <p>2. I have spoken a second time by telephone with William Keesler (brother) and his wife of Cleveland, Miss. They do plan on being here for the dedication. I have told them that they will be treated as honored guests.</p> <p>3. Since Mr. Keesler is elderly, he will need transportation to the base. Through the help of Col. Matt Thompson of the ROA, I have contacted Major Lawton K. Owens (USA, Ret) of Cleveland who will transport Mr. &amp; Mrs Keesler to and from the base. Major Owens is currently a professor of business at Delta State College in Cleveland.</p> <p>4. I have reserved VIP cottages for Mr. &amp; Mrs William Keesler and Major and Mrs Owens. Protocol funds will pay for the billeting.</p> <p>5. Fifteen invitations to the rest of the Keesler family will be mailed out this week. Billeting of these family members will have to be addressed after we know who will be coming.</p> <p>6. Lt. Veillon is handling invitations for our civilian guests.</p> <p>7. Major Wilson is planning the dedication ceremonies. We will use the Drum &amp; Bugle and/or band for the ceremony. A coffee and cake reception is planned at the Spirit of Keesler Center following the dedication using protocol and information funds.</p>						
<p><i>[Signature]</i> DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF Chief, Information Division</p>						
<p>Cy To: Lt Veillon</p>						



Mr. and Mrs. William Keesler  
507 Sixth Avenue  
Cleveland, MS 38732

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Keesler

I am enclosing some photos of the Spirit of Keesler Center dedication which I hope will serve as a remembrance of the event.

I hope you enjoyed your visit to the base. If there is ever a time that I can be of help to you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely

SIGNED

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Photos



*Major Hopkins*

Memo to Gen Pustay

Subj: Spirit of Keesler Center Dedication

Time: Saturday, 8 Apr, 1345.

Uniform: Combination Two

Reserved parking has been arranged for General and Mrs Pustay. This reserved parking place is next to the Spirit Of Keesler Center sign on "C" Street.

The Drum and Bugle Corps will begin the festivities at 1330. Recommend General and Mrs Pustay arrive at the Spirit of Keesler Center at 1345.

Guests will be entertained by the Drum and Bugle Corps outdoors until General and Mrs Pustay arrive and the receiving line is formed.

Receiving Line:

Capt Robert G. Watson  
MGen Pustay  
Mrs Pustay  
Col Don Wenzel  
Lorraine Wenzel

Once the receiving line is formed, the doors will be opened to the visitors.

Key Personnel:

Major Jerry and Annette O'Keefe  
Major Jack and Linda Barnett  
Mayor Pat and Ethelyn Connor  
Bill and Anne Simms, President, Biloxi Chamber of Commerce  
Jack and Rebecca Thompson, President, Gulfport Chamber  
Col Clint and Maureen Kinard, USAF (Ret), Chairman, Military  
Affairs Committee, Biloxi Chamber  
Lerwood and Annie Jane Sawyer, Chairman, Military Affairs Committee,  
Gulfport Chamber  
Bishop Joseph Howze  
Jimmy and Betty Goodwin  
Franklin and Rose Kyle  
Don and June Wylie  
Bill and Johnnie McManus  
Peter and Sandy Halat  
Robert and Mary Mahoney  
Mike Chance  
Bill and Sylvia Bailey, Executive Director, Gulfport Chamber  
Judge Danny and Margaret Gulce  
Louie and Donna Langlinalis  
Jerry and Virginia Hermetz



Jerry and Barbara Lawson  
 SMSgt Joe and Esther Peters, USAF (ret), President, Retired  
 NCO Association  
 CMSgt Cecil and Helen Grant, USAF (Ret)  
 Col Westleigh and Eve Carlseen, USAF, (Ret) representing the  
 Retired Officers' Association  
 BGen and Mrs Eugene Eubank, USAF (Ret)  
 BGen and Betty Dorris, USAF (Ret)  
 BGen and Mrs William D. Ott, USAF (Ret)  
 Col Louis and Prudence Cyr, USAF (Ret)  
 Col and Mrs Karl Eickenmeyer, USAF (Ret)  
*Karl and Sue Eickenmeyer*

At the end of the receiving line, hostesses will guide our guests to the site of the next activity.

When the guests are in the SKC, the receiving line will disband. Gen and Mrs Pustay, the Keesler family representative and Mayor and Mrs O'Keefe will move to the podium. General Pustay will make welcome remarks and introduce Keesler family members.

Following Gen Pustay's remarks, he will introduce Mayor Jerry O'Keefe and invite the mayor to make remarks.

Following Mayor O'Keefe's remarks, Gen Pustay introduces a Keesler family member to make remarks.

Following the family member's remarks, Gen Pustay and a Keesler family member will cut the ribbon which will be placed on the archway entering into the new Keesler Room section of the building.

Following the ribbon cutting and photos being taken, Gen Pustay will lead the Keesler family and guests to the veiled portrait.

One of the Keesler family members will be asked to draw the cord (unveil) the Sam Keesler portrait, painted by Marty Brazil.

Following the unveiling, Gen Pustay presents an encased flag to the Keesler family member. The flag case is inscribed:

To the Keesler Family  
 From the Men and Women  
 of Keesler Air Force Base  
 8 April 1978

Following the presentation of the flag, the Keesler Male Chorus will present a musical program.

Reception begins following the musical selections.

I will provide you with 3x5 cards cueing your various functions on Friday, 7 April.

A copy of this memo will be sent to the quarters for Mrs Pustay.

*Linda S. Veillon*  
 LINDA S. VEILLON, 2Lt, USAF  
 Center Protocol



KTTC/OI

10 April 1978

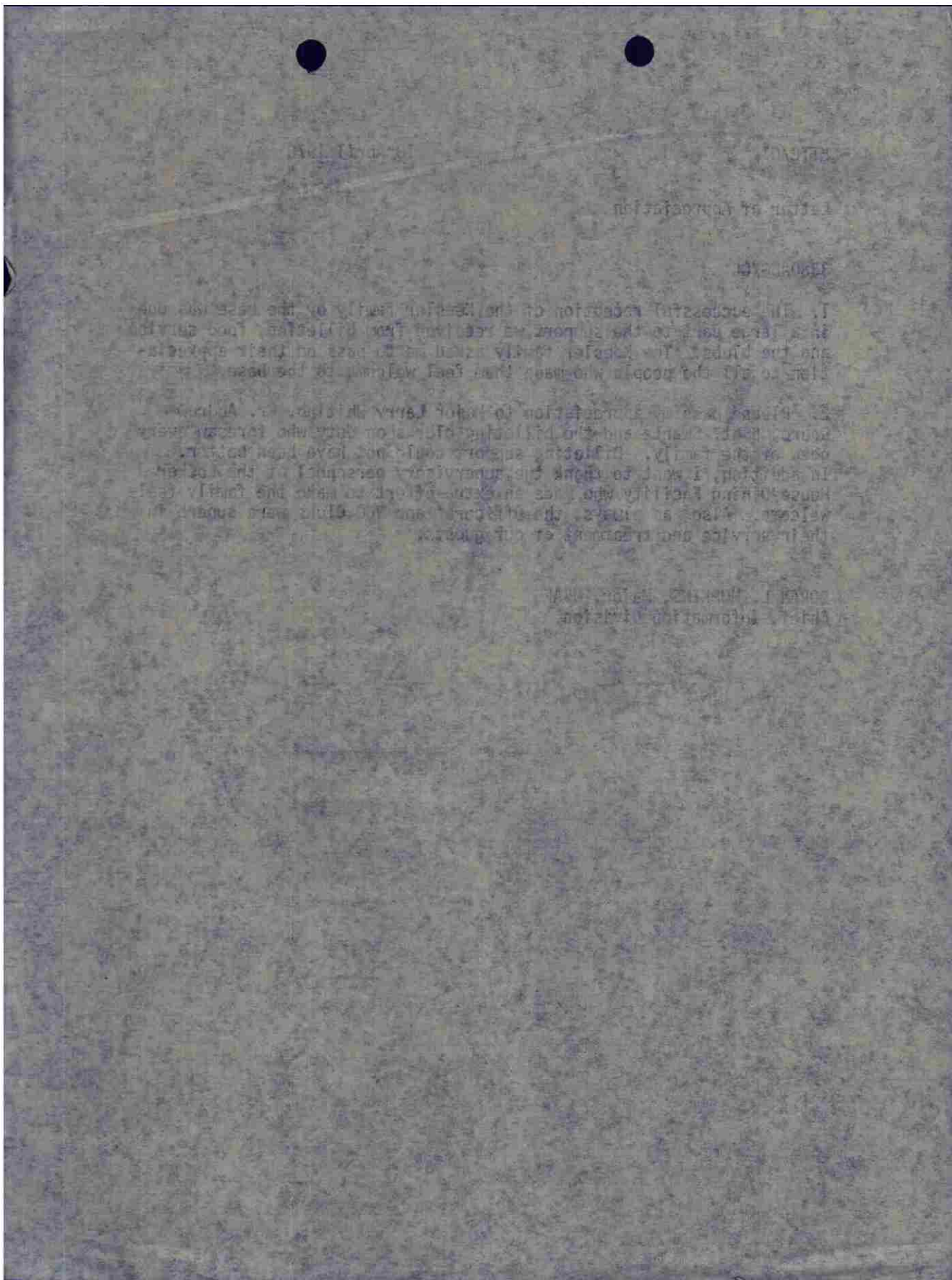
Letter of Appreciation

3380ABG/CC

1. The successful reception of the Keesler family by the base was due in a large part to the support we received from billeting, food service and the clubs. The Keesler family asked me to pass on their appreciation to all the people who made them feel welcome to the base.

2. Please pass my appreciation to Major Larry Whiting, Mr. Andrew Dauro, SSgt. Swartz and the billeting clerks on duty who foresaw every need of the family. Billeting support could not have been better. In addition, I want to thank the supervisory personnel at the Locker House Dining Facility who made an extra effort to make the family feel welcome. Also, as always, the Officers' and NCO Clubs were superb in their service and treatment of our guests.

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division





## OFFICE OF INFORMATION

KEESLER AFB, MS

TO: CCE *me*  
CV *g*  
CC

10 April 1978

The Keesler family told me that the portrait of Lt Keesler in the Officers' Club is a very poor likeness of him. They stated that Sam Keesler had much stronger features than are shown in the portrait. They asked that the portrait be removed and replaced by a better one.

Mrs. Gilmour, his sister, told me that she would be sending me some additional photos of Lt Keesler and asked me to do what I could to have a new portrait painted.

With your concurrence, I will discuss with Training Services the possibility of having a new portrait painted.

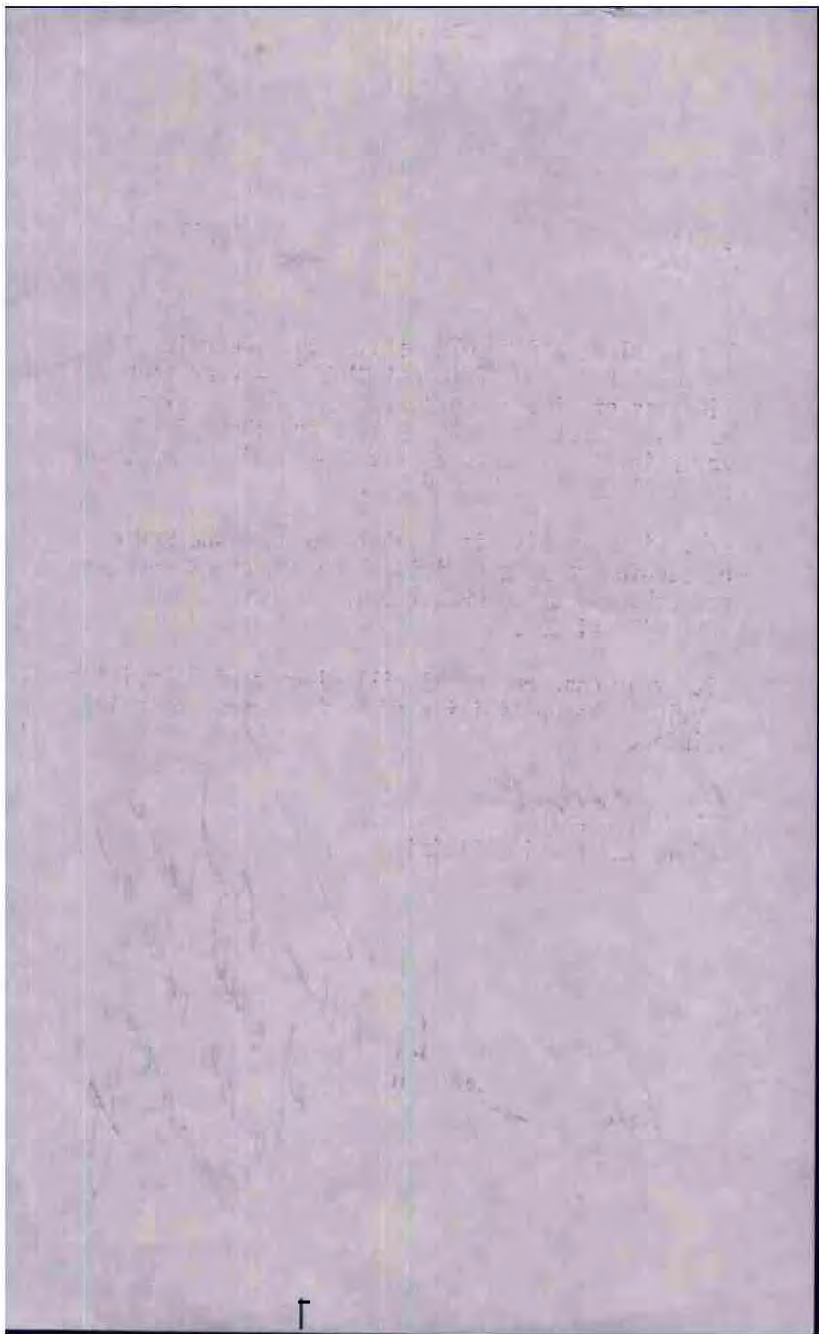
*[Signature]*  
DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

*17 May -  
George Keesler  
written directly  
to me for  
original*

*Sent thru  
22 May*

*OK - But  
it could have  
to be oils on  
canvas.*

*178  
was done  
recently*





OFFICE OF INFORMATION

KEESLER AFB, MS

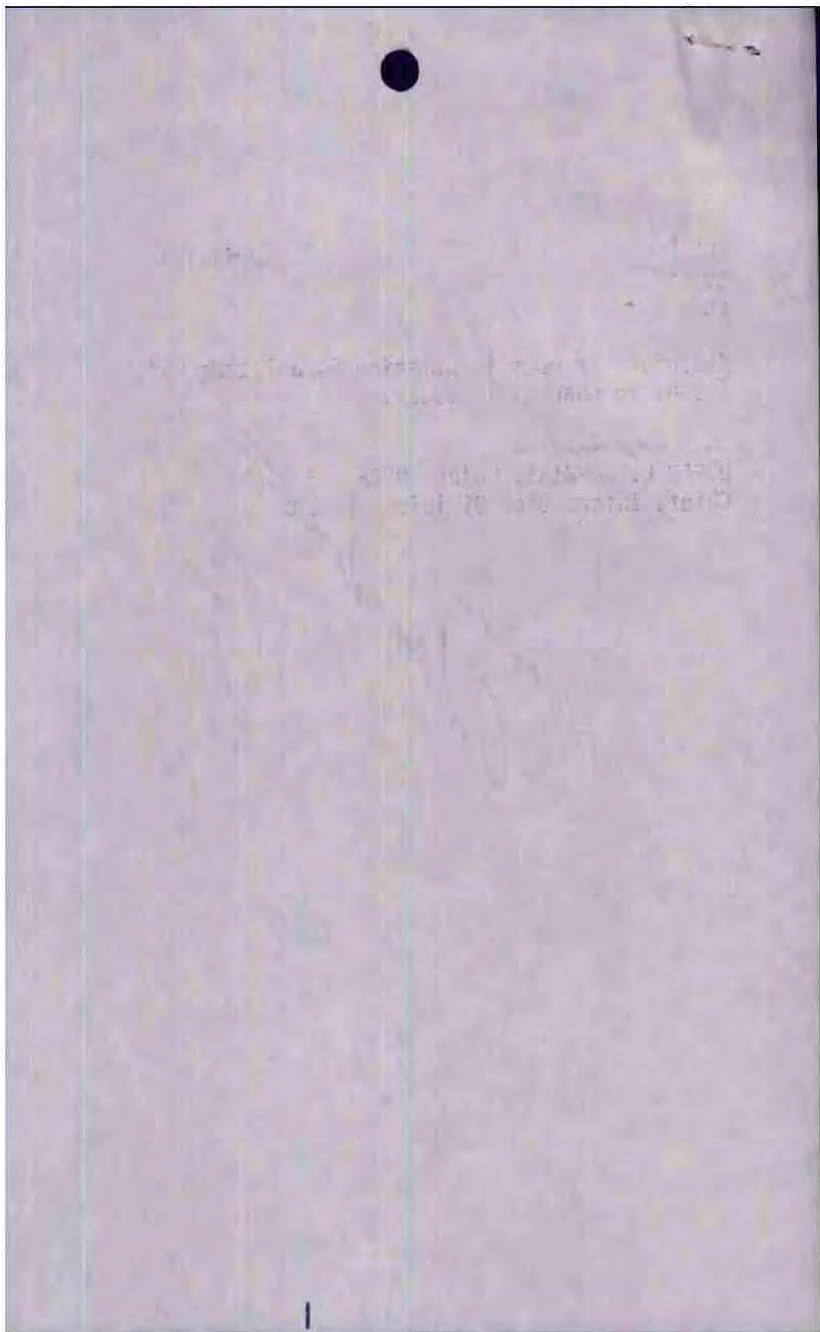
TO: CCE *B*  
CV  
CC

10 April 1978

Attached for your information is a letter which  
I sent to Channel 13 today.

*ll*  
DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF 1 Atch  
Chief, Information Division Lt

*Doran L. Hopkins*  
*Outstanding*





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS KEESLER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER (ATC)  
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, MISSISSIPPI 39534



10 April 1978

Mr. Thomas Majure  
General Manager  
WLOX-TV  
P.O. Box 4596  
Biloxi, MS 39531

Dear Blue

This past Saturday, April 8, Keesler AFB dedicated The Spirit of Keesler Center, a facility in honor of Lt. Samuel Keesler after whom the base is named.

As part of the dedication, we invited eighteen members of the Keesler family including his eighty-three year old brother and two sisters. The dedication was a very emotional experience for the family since it brought back poignant memories of their brother who was killed in action in WW I.

Your station covered the dedication and sent out Mr. Leroy Jay to do the camera work. I wish to commend Mr. Jay for the professionalism he exhibited while taping the event. He was aware of the emotionalism of the ceremony and treated the Keesler family with respect and genuine kindness. In fact, after the ceremony, he allowed the family to view the unedited tape on a nearby viewer, which was greatly appreciated by the Keeslers.

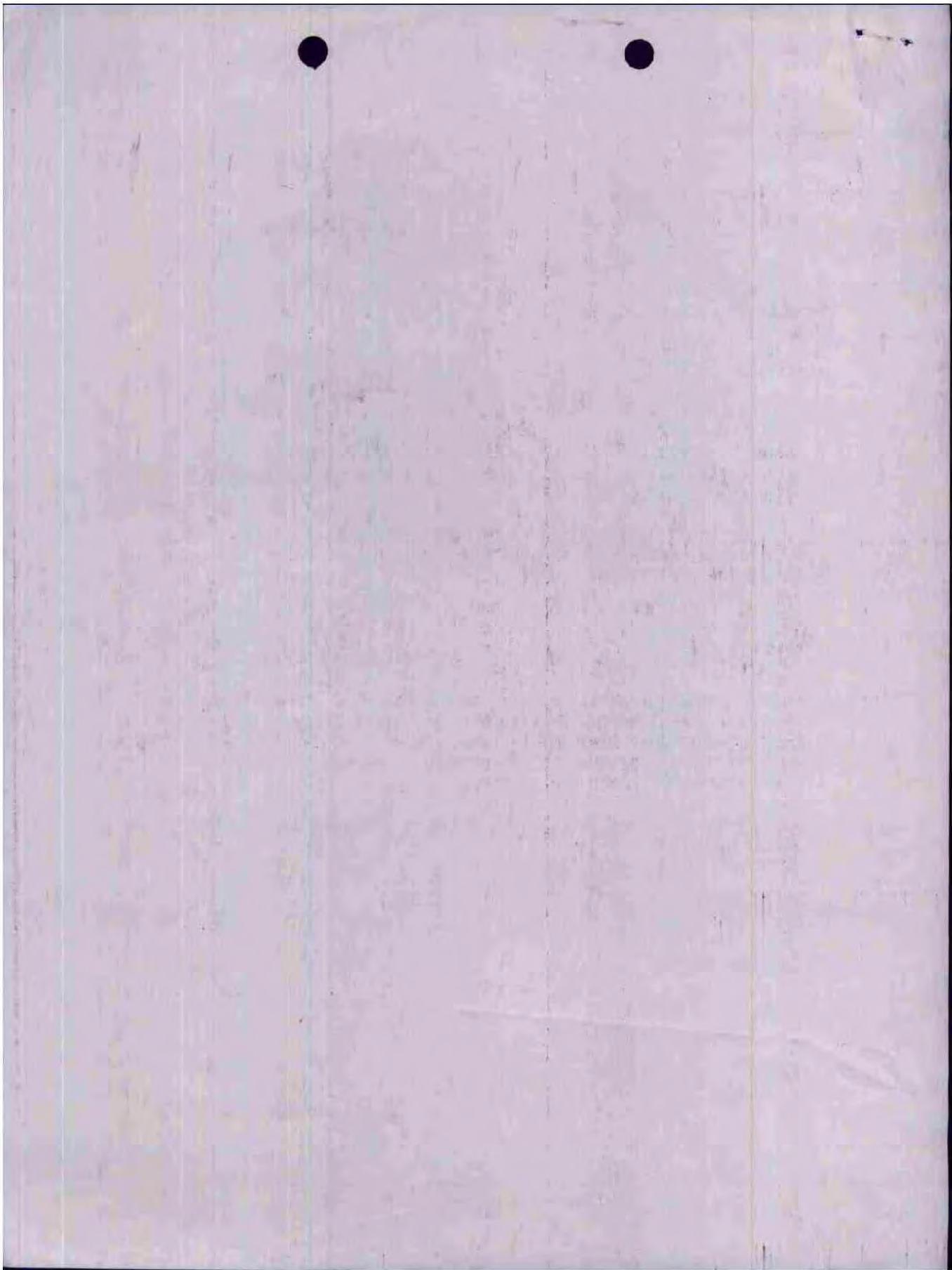
Mr. Jay is an outstanding representative of your station. Please pass on to him our appreciation for his extra effort.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely of Doran L. Hopkins, is written above the typed name.

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

AIR FORCE—A GREAT WAY OF LIFE





10 April 1978

Mr. Mike McCall  
Sun-Herald Editor  
Gulf Publishing Company  
P.O. Box 4567  
Biloxi, MS 39531

Dear Mr. McCall

I want to compliment reporter Lloyd Gray and photographer Bill Elmore for their outstanding support in covering the Spirit of Keesler Center dedication. Our commander and others have praised the Sun-Herald article.

The combined efforts of both reporter and photographer produced a very informative account of Saturday's historical event.

I also appreciate the placement of the story and the depth of the article.

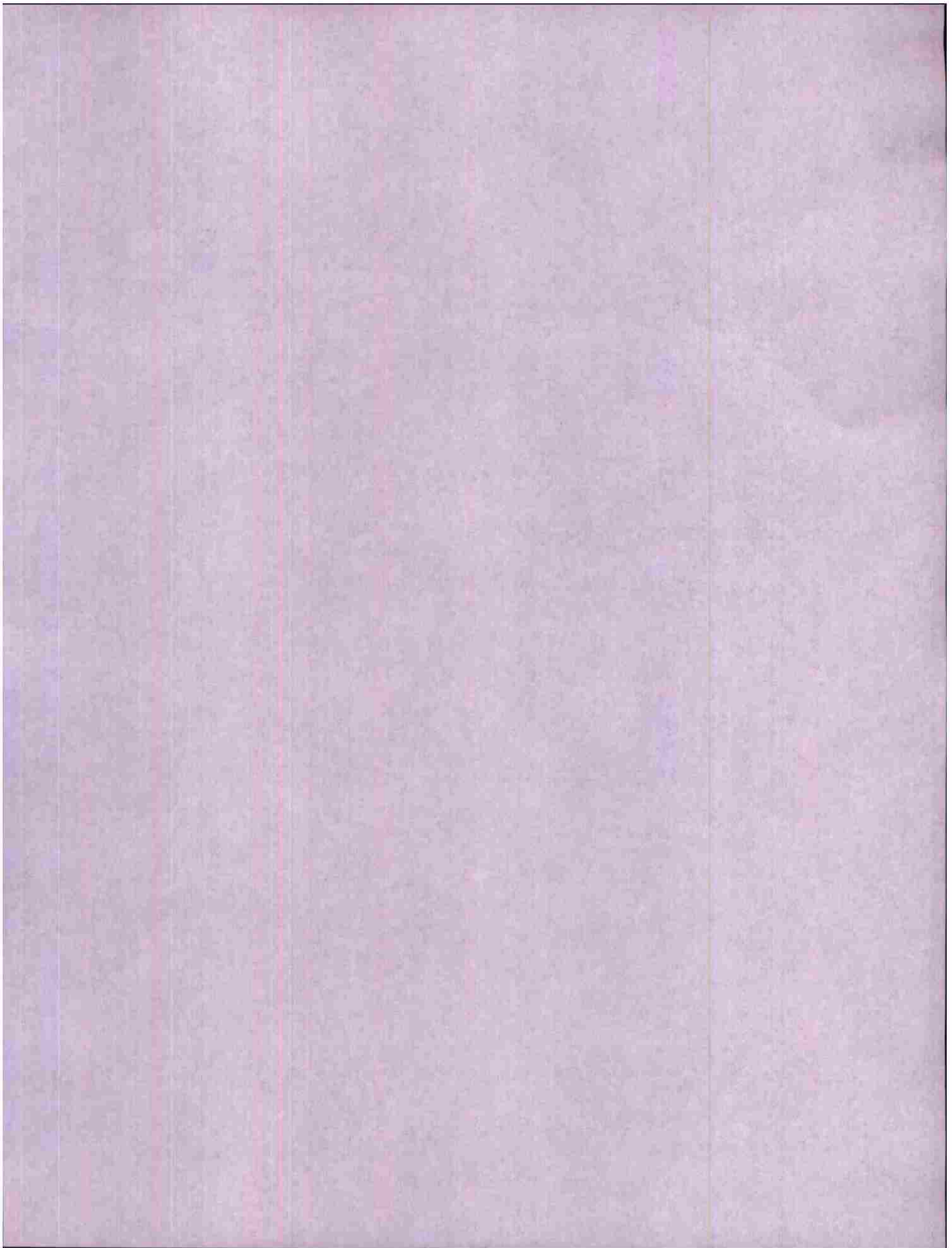
Sincerely

**SIGNED**

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

Cy to:  
Mr. Roland Weeks

10





8 April 1978

Dear Mrs. Betty Straehle

Welcome to Keesler!

I am happy that you are going to be able to join us for the dedication of the Spirit of Keesler Center.

The dining room of the Officers Club will be open until 9:30 p.m. Friday if you would like your evening meal at the base.

We will pick you up by bus Saturday morning at 7:50 in front of Shaw House for breakfast at the NCO Club.

The attached schedule indicates our plans for Saturday. Please wear your name tag all day Saturday.

**SIGNED**

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Schedule

11 April 1978

Colonel Richard A. Ingram  
ATC/OI  
Randolph AFB, TX 78148

Dear Colonel Ingram

I thought you might be interested in the attached article. After the decision was made that our new learning center/student union would be dedicated as the "Spirit of Keesler Center," I decided to try to locate any surviving members of the Keesler family. Using our historical files, a brother and four sisters were located throughout the southeast. The brother and two sisters and fifteen other members of the family attended the dedication.

The family stayed on the base two days and were given VIP treatment. Although it was an emotional experience for the family, they were very grateful for the opportunity to tour the base and take part in the dedication ceremonies.

We had press and television coverage of the dedication. In addition, we fed radio coverage by telephone to the Mississippi Radio Network and to the hometowns of the Keesler family throughout the South.

Sincerely

DORAN L. HOPKINS, Major, USAF  
Chief, Information Division

1 Atch  
Article

101



HEADQUARTERS  
KEESLER TECHNICAL  
TRAINING CENTER

OI info  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER



DATE: 11 Apr 78

MEMORANDUM FOR: *EV*

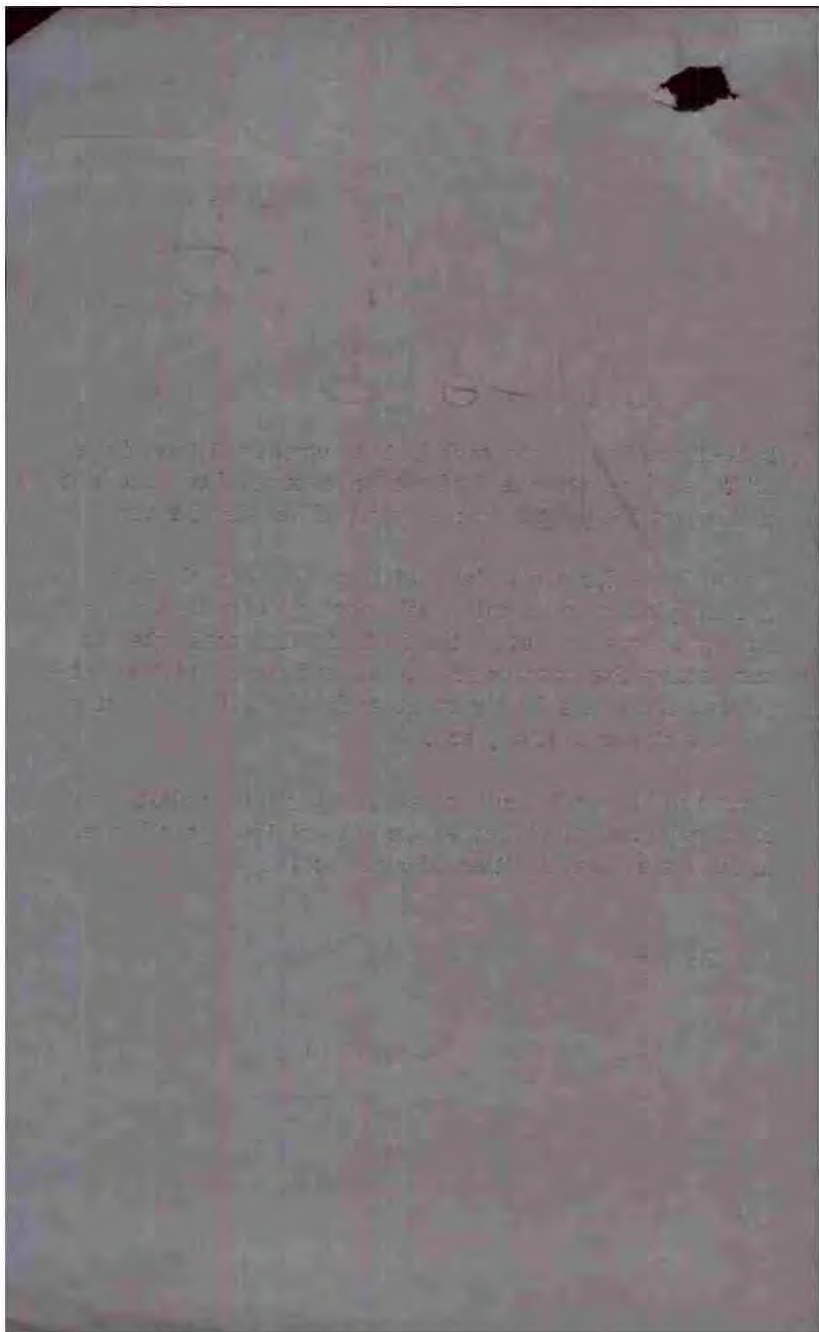
Pat--There is a photograph in the current edition of the AF Times (see attached) of Sgt Lemaster and two students looking at the photos in the Spirit of Keesler Center.

I would like for you to let Maj Hopkins know that I am not too pleased with this. It's not so much the coverage I am concerned about as the fact of being preempted in our getting the appropriate coverage for the major event--getting the entire family together for the SKC dedication and the ribbon cutting, etc.

I want to know who authorized that particular photograph to be released and whether the authorizing agent looked through the potentialities of that action.

Gen Pustay

*SIR -  
SEE ATTACHED.*







### ***New Student Center***

Two students from the Technical Training Center at Keesler AFB, Miss., get a tour of the new student study and learning area, called the "Spirit of Keesler Center," from MSgt. William Lemaster, NCOIC of career enhancement. The historical photographs hanging in the new section are part of a permanent display. The center, which was to be dedicated April 8, is named in honor of 2d Lt. Samuel Reeves Keesler, an aerial observer killed in France during World War I.

# **Shaving Rules Guide ANG**

# Computer to Halt Illegal Use of IDs For Health Care

By RICHARD C. BARNARD

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — In an effort to stop the use of fraudulent military identification cards, the Defense Department soon will establish a central computerized file of all persons eligible for military health care.

The file, to be called the "DoD Health Services Enrollment and Eligibility System," will contain detailed information about the approximately 9.5 million persons eligible for Champus coverage or care in uniformed services hospitals.

The information also will be used in the planning and staffing of health-care facilities.

Using the computer system, health officials will check the eligibility of each person who requests health care or Champus coverage.

The system will work much as do the telephone credit checks by stores. Each military health-care beneficiary will be given an enrollment number. When he requests medical care, health officials will telephone that num-

ber to one of the computer terminals to be maintained by the services, Champus and DoD.

Medical care will not be provided until the member's entitlement is cleared by computer.

The computer file will contain each beneficiary's name, age, sex, race, ethnic origin, address, relationship to military sponsor and information about the sponsor's military service.

Some of the information will be obtained from the services' personnel and pay computer systems.

The computerized file system is one answer to the complaints of congressmen and budget officials who feel DoD does not control the distribution or use of military ID cards properly.

There is no central processing or control of ID cards, a 1975 study of DoD health care study revealed.

Rep. Bill Nichols (D-Ala.) recently urged DoD to, "Keep the drones and deadbeats — the noneligibles — out of our hospitals and commissaries." He made the request during a meeting of the House Armed Services Committee's nonappropriated fund panel.

A former staffer at Martin Army Hospital at Fort Benning, Ga., had told Nichols that 25 per-



**Integra**

Sgt. Matt Hancock checks the military training squadron's drum and 36 — recently became the first coed

**Regular**

WASHINGTON — The CY 1979 Regular majors board is scheduled to meet at the Military Personnel Center, D



2-8216

Hopkins -

Perini -

R

April 12, 1978

Editor:  
Keesler News  
Keesler Air Force Base  
Biloxi, Miss.

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed your well written article on Lt. Samuel Keesler in the Keesler News on April 7, 1978. I was pleased that your staff of Capt. M. Perini have selected my late husband's (Mr. Wm. B. Holleran) portrait of Lt. Keesler. My husband painted this portrait in his spare time on weekends and presented it as a gift to General Powell in tribute to Lt. Keesler. I did notice in your oversight that you forgot to mention the artist's name, it would have been nice to let the readers know who painted the portrait.

Your paper is most interesting and informative.

Sincerely yours,

*Mrs. Theresa Holleran*

Mrs. Theresa Holleran  
452 Kensington Drive.,  
Biloxi, Miss. #3953

*(Do not print this letter)  
Thank you.*



**Gulfport Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

P. O. Drawer FF/Gulfport, Mississippi 39501/Ac 601-863-2933

April 12, 1978

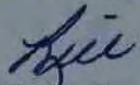
Major General John S. Pustay, USAF  
Commander  
Keesler Technical Training Center  
Keesler Air Force Base, MS 39534

Dear John:

Just a note to express my appreciation for your having included Sylvia and me in the dedication of the Spirit of Keesler Center.

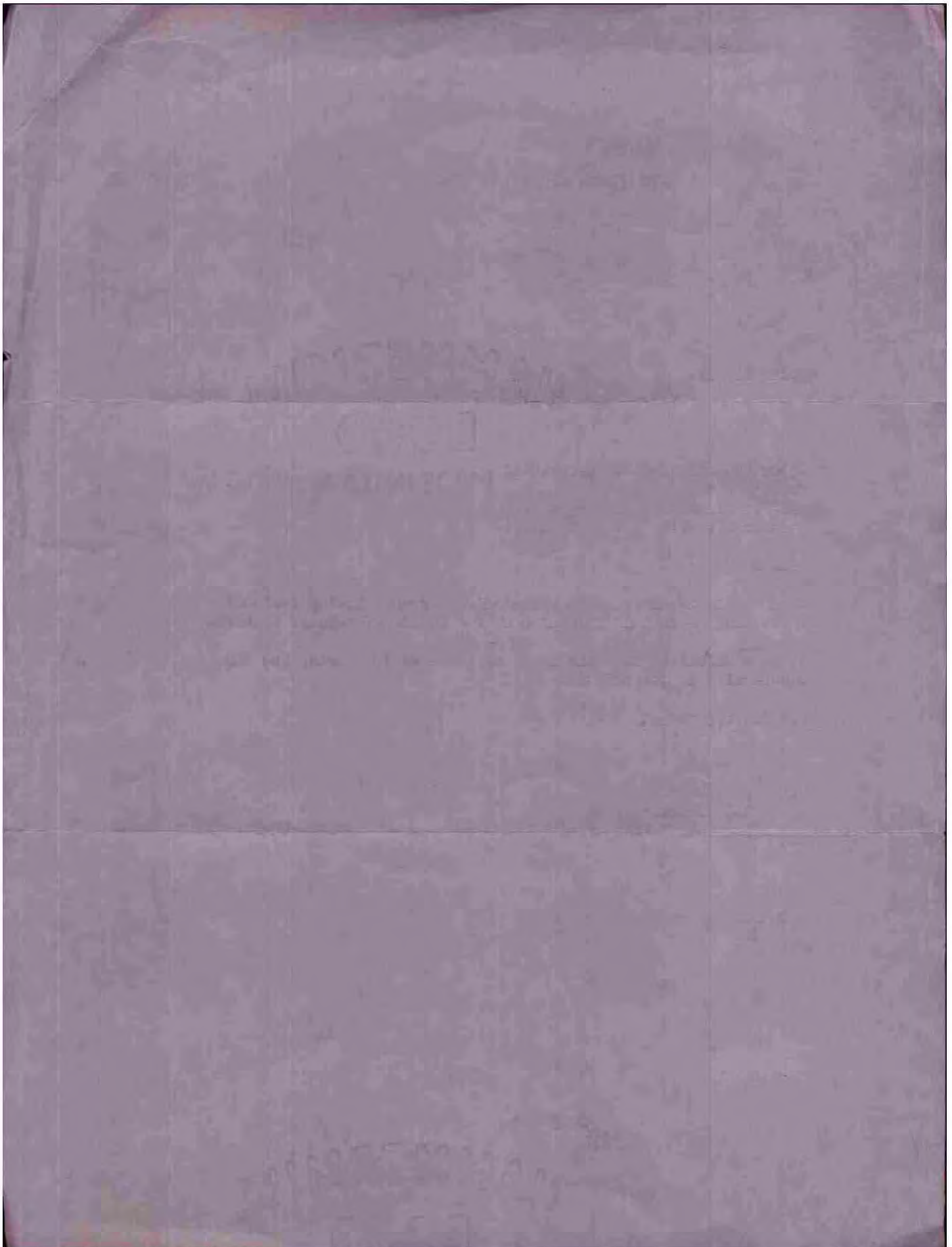
It is a beautiful facility and I am grateful for having had the opportunity to participate.

Warmest regards,

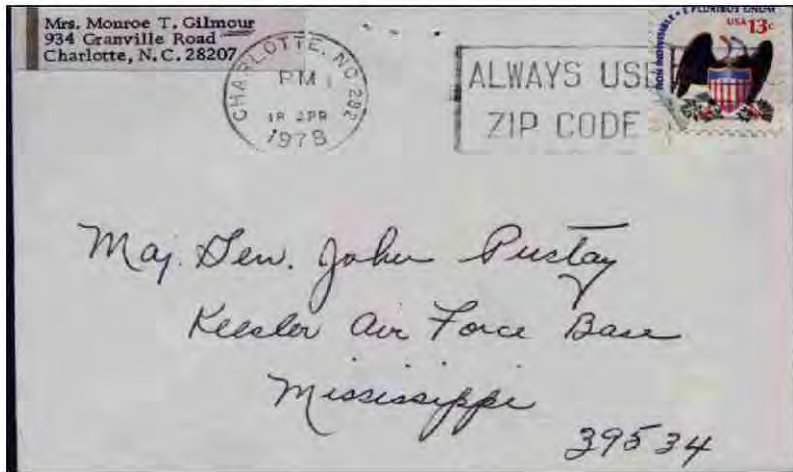
  
William D. Bailey  
Executive Director

WB/mf





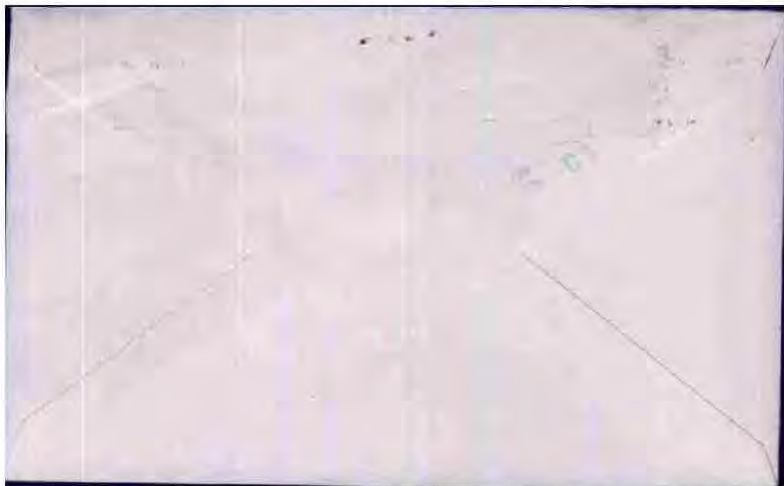
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P at  
Greetings from North Carolina  
and our appreciation and gratitude  
for the delightful week-end  
you gave 'us Keelers' at the  
Base - We will long remember



The delight for and happy  
have we had - all of us  
have spoken of your grace  
and warmth - We are proud of  
the spirit of Kessler Center and feel  
the building will be a real boon  
to all the men -  
Best of wishes to you and your family  
most of all

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Dear Major Hopkins,

The Keesler's stay at Keesler  
Air Force Base was perfect,  
and the thanks go to you.  
Room meeting me at the  
air port to all day Sat you  
could not have been nicer.

Thanks,

4/18/78

Sincerely,

Betty Strubbe



