



## NELLIE MILLER IS RUNNING FOR AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. ANISSA A. SHERO

31, of Grafton, W. V.; assigned to the 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.; killed in an MC-130H Combat Talon crash on June 12, 2002, in Afghanistan.

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KIA Tuesday June 12, 2002

In the final days of her life, Clyde Shuttleworth's only daughter took a moment from her military duties in Afghanistan to send her dad a Father's Day card.

The card arrived at Shuttleworth's home in Grafton, West Virginia, a few days before Air Force Staff Sergeant Anissa Ann Shero and two other Americans were killed in the crash of their MC-130H plane.

The front of the card reads: "Dads and Daughters." Inside was a brief handwritten note: "Happy Father's Day. Love, Anissa."

". . . The last letter I'll get from her. I'll keep it close by," Shuttleworth said Monday, fighting back tears. "I'm just numb right now. It's hard to believe this happened."

Shuttleworth said his own military experience will help him deal with his daughter's death. The ex-Marine lost both of his legs from a mortar round in Vietnam in 1968.

"I'm very proud of her for doing what she wanted to. That's what she enjoyed. That's what she wanted to do and I backed her up on it," Shuttleworth said.

Shero -- the first Air Force woman to die in Afghanistan and the second West Virginian killed there since the military campaign began -- will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

"It's a place of respect where I think she belongs," Shuttleworth said.

"She was a special sister to each of us," Cathell-Bolyard said. They shared a brother, James "Jamie" Shuttleworth, and a sister, Shannon Hebb-Blevins.

"Anissa was very thoughtful to remember birthdays, holidays and special occasions," Cathell-Bolyard said.





Shero's maternal grandmother, Edith Kenney, received a birthday card from Shero this week, as did Kenney's husband, Scott. And Clyde Shuttleworth got a Father's Day card from Shero recently.

"She was full of life and always happy and ready to help in whatever way she could," Cathell-Bolyard said. "She was always just a phone call or e-mail away, anytime we may have needed her. She was always there.

"Anissa has a very special place in each of our hearts, but she is now more than just a friend, a classmate or a sister. Now she is our hero." Grandmother gets reminder of soldier through the mail Letter, birthday card arrive from Shero Edith Kenney found two treasures in her mailbox Monday. They weren't checks, or anything with monetary value. But these two pieces of mail are priceless. They came to Kenney's Grafton home in simple, plain envelopes, from her granddaughter, Air Force Staff Sergeant Anissa Shero, 31, in Afghanistan.

The mail -- a letter and an American Greetings birthday card for Kenney -- was dated June 8, four days before Shero died in a plane crash in Afghanistan.

The letter, written on notebook paper, described the Grafton native's time in Afghanistan.

"Well, here I am sitting here tired and quite bored," Kenney read from the letter. "It was 101 (degrees) in the shade today. It's hot. I'm sweating my (butt) off over here."

Shero wrote that she worked long hours in Afghanistan's humid weather, but it passed the time.

"I ride in the chariot of Armageddon as much as possible," she wrote.

Anissa was married the September before her death to her husband (Nathan), a Marine. He was deployed to Afghanistan also but returned early because the military did not want both of them to serve overseas at the same time.

She was one of three Americans killed when a MC-130H loadmaster aircraft -- a version of the C-130 transport -- crashed shortly after takeoff Wednesday.

But for friends, family and the community, Shero's spirit lives on.

Shero wrote to her grandmother about life with the Air Force's 16th Special Operations Wing, thousands of miles from its base at Hurlburt Field, Florida.





"We have a projector and a DVD player for movies," Kenney read from Shero's letter. "We have a ping pong table, PlayStation, lawn chairs, a table, a couple of refrigerators, microwave, TV and a satellite, although it's not working right now.

"Everything is brown except the bright, blue sky."

Shero ended her letter, "Tell everyone I'll write again soon, and you can write, too. Love, Nissy." (Pronounced niece-y.)

