

**March 14, 2003**

(From Mike's safety deposit box in  
Milpitas) (First read on **December  
31, 2003**)

To My Beloved Parents George and Diana Mihalakis,

If you are reading this, then that should mean only one thing; family ~~is~~ enduring one of the most painful things we have ever seen. Sometime before reading this letter, you got word that I gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty as a Military Police Officer in the United States Army. All in the name of protecting and defending the worlds greatest nation, The United States of America. I can promise ~~that~~ I would not give my life for any other cause and that I am honored to have been able to make such a sacrifice to protect my family and the many families like us, throughout the country. Everyone sooner or later has to part this world. It makes me proud to know that I left while

protecting The United States. Eighteen is such a young age, and you're probably thinking of all the things that I'm going to miss out on. Don't. I got to live such a wonderful life because of you two, and because of that I don't regret missing anything that would later come in the future.

In August of 2002, when I first brought the idea of joining the Army to your attention, I knew it was the right decision. I can promise you, that as I took my last breath, I still in no way regretted the decision I made. You both hesitated early on about my decision. You were unsure, but in the end you were there for me and supported me. I love you so much for that. If you even for a second hold yourself ~~for the loss~~ responsible our family and friends feel, you're wrong. This was my decision and mine alone. It would make me truly devastated knowing that either one of you felt responsible for the ending of my epic journey through life. I can assure you wherever I am now, I will always be looking down at you both and admiring what wonderful individuals ~~both~~ are. I love you guys. I love you both very much.