

April 30, 2020

To Governing Mayor Müller and my dear friends in Berlin,

Although our movements are restricted this year and the annual Luftbrücke commemoration will not take place at Tempelfof, our thoughts and the gratitude in our hearts know no boundaries.

At this anniversary of the Berlin Airlift on May 12, I wish to send my deep gratitude to the German people and to the Berliners especially. The overriding heroes and heroines of the Airlift had to be the Berliners—men, women and children. Without their knowledge of what freedom meant and their indomitable spirit and principled response, the Airlift would have surely failed. They were the ones that went home at night to bomb-damaged rooms without lights, heat, or enough to eat.

At the beginning of the blockade the Berliners consciously postponed the return to an easier life for something better later. They gave meaning to our efforts. We remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to feed a former enemy--they gave their lives that others might live. May we never forget these sacrifices and the great effort given by Berliners and Allied friends to keep Berlin free.

With deep gratitude,

Gail S. Halvorsen, Berlin Candy Bomber