

# Sailor wrote of 'suicidal' carrier tasks

1981, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers  
By Leonard Poger  
staff writer

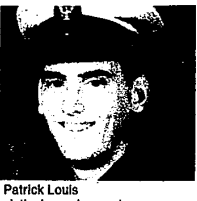
6,000 crew members aboard. In his letter, dated just two days before he was killed, Louis described the dangers of his job and 12-hour shifts. At one point, he was "nearly blown off" the carrier deck by the exhaust from a jet plane. "The noise is so loud, it makes your whole body shake," he wrote his mother. There are jet flights everyday, and "the workload is never ending." "Hopefully, I will be home in July."

MRS. MATHEWS, lives with her second husband, James R., at 31424 Donnelly, Garden City. She is divorced from Patrick's father Dennis. Mrs. Mathews said Friday morning she hasn't heard from the Navy about the details of the fatal crash. The sailor's stepfather said there are tentative plans to have a service from John Santelmo and Son Funeral Home, Garden City, and St. Raphael Catholic Church, on Merriman near Beechwood, this morning. He (Louis) had attended St. Raphael school. Louis' letter received after his death wasn't the only communication the family received last week about the sailor.

Mark Gutman, West High School principal, wrote the family: "Many tears have been shed here the last few days. "He was too young for this tragedy. He didn't have to enlist. He didn't have to enter the service, which does have some risks. "Pat always seemed to do things his way — this made him a man, and of this you and we can be proud." "There are few who love life as much as Pat. He was always smiling and finding the best. He was a pleasure

to be with, always loyal to friends, no matter what age. He never forgot them," Gutman added. ANOTHER DIMENSION of Louis was disclosed by Larry Conn, a security guard at West. He remembers Louis when, four years ago, the youngster was part of a federally funded jobs program in the city. One of Louis' job that summer was to scrape the paint off the swimming pool ceiling.

"It was a tough job, but he did a good job," Conn recalled. "He was a good worker, with good initiative. "Louis was gregarious, boisterous, and a leader. "I liked the kid." Conn said the youth dropped out of school three years ago and with a close friend, Allen Reed, tried to enlist in the Navy. Louis got into the service branch he wanted, but Reed eventually joined the Marine Corps.



Patrick Louis victim in carrier crash

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### Reilly named awards panel

Dr. Bernard J. Reilly of Oakland Community College's English department has been a regional judge for the 1981 NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing Program. Through this nationally recognized competition, now in its 23rd year, approximately 800 high school seniors are cited for excellence in writing and are recommended to colleges and universities for admission and for financial aid, if needed. The National Council of Teachers of English also honors teachers and schools that have participated in the training of these young men and women. Seven thousand students have been nominated for NCTE Awards in 1981. Results of the contest are announced in October of each year.

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