

*The following is a letter of farewell written by Sullivan Ballou, a Union Officer during the Civil War, to his wife Sarah:*

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, yet my love of Country bears me irresistably to the battlefield.

Memories of the blissful moments I have enjoyed with you come crowding over me, and I feel most grateful to God and you that I have enjoyed them so long. If I do not return, never forget how much I loved you nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield it will whisper your name.

If the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they love, I shall be always with you. When the soft breeze fans your cheek it shall be my breath or the cool air your throbbing temple it shall be my spirit passing by. Sarah, do not mourn me. Think I am gone and wait for me, for we shall meet again.

*Seven days later, in the First Battle of Bull Run, Sullivan Ballou died. His beloved Sarah never remarried.*