

Compensating Crash Victims

On July 3, 1988, an American Navy cruiser – thinking itself to be under attack by an Iranian F-14, gunned down an Iranian airliner containing 290 civilian passengers, killing them all.

This incident came seven years after the Iran hostage crisis when 52 American diplomats and citizens were held hostage for 444 days when a group of Iranian students took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

With the hostage crisis still fresh in many minds, polls revealed that most Americans were against paying compensation to the Iranian airliner victims' families.



In spite of this, President Ronald Reagan approved compensation. Afterward, he was asked by reporters if such payment would send the wrong signal.

His response was, "I don't ever find compassion a bad precedent."

Revenge may be easier to practice, but compassion demonstrates the heart of God.

God's leadership is compassionate leadership, and recognizes that compassion is not subject to public opinion.

Compassion is defined by *Merriam-Webster* as "sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it."

It is the personal characteristic that has driven associates of Life Care and Century Park to choose their careers, and it is played out in their activities with those they serve every day.

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do (Colossians 3:12-13 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter