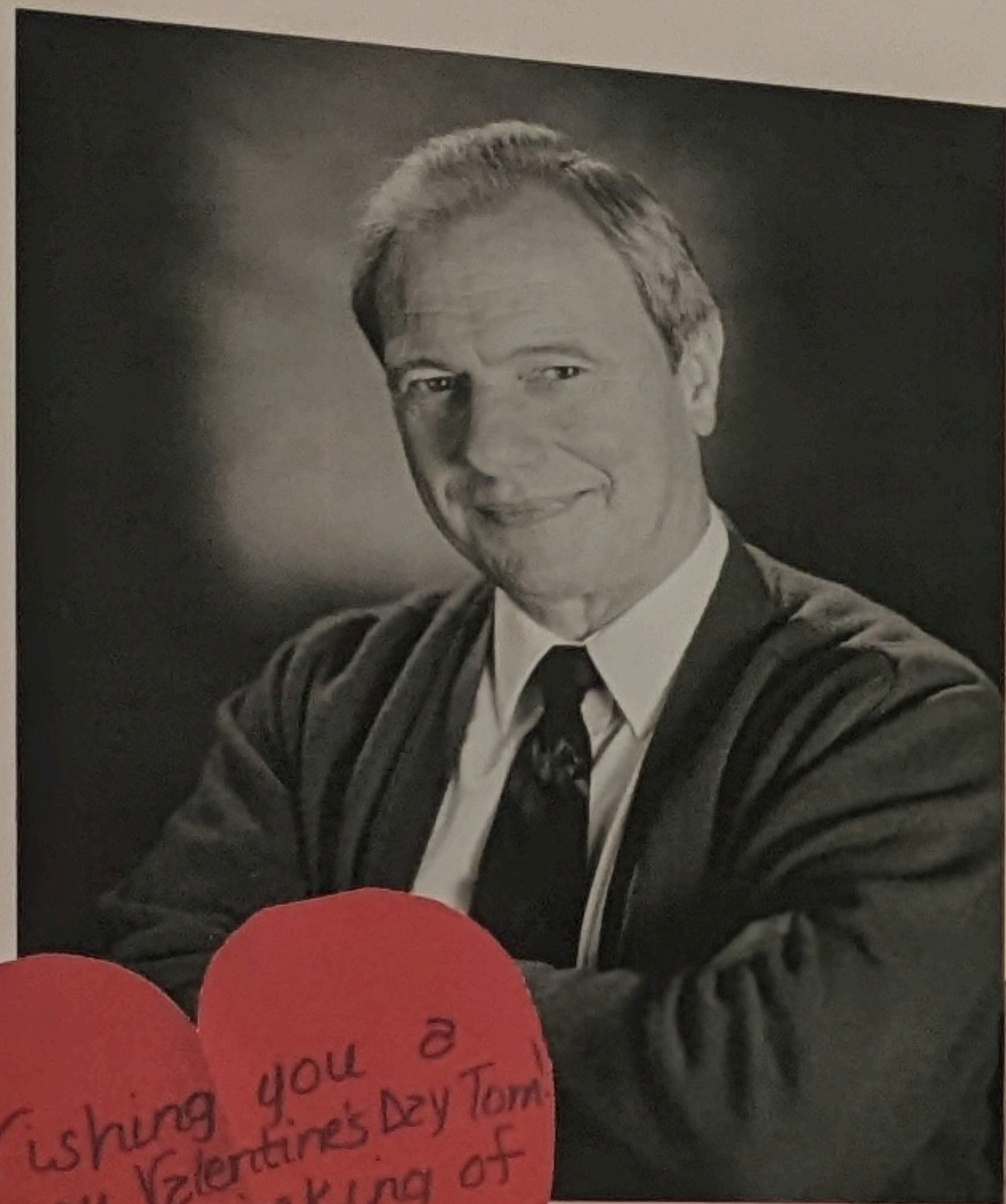






# Thomas Sutherland Valentines for a Captive

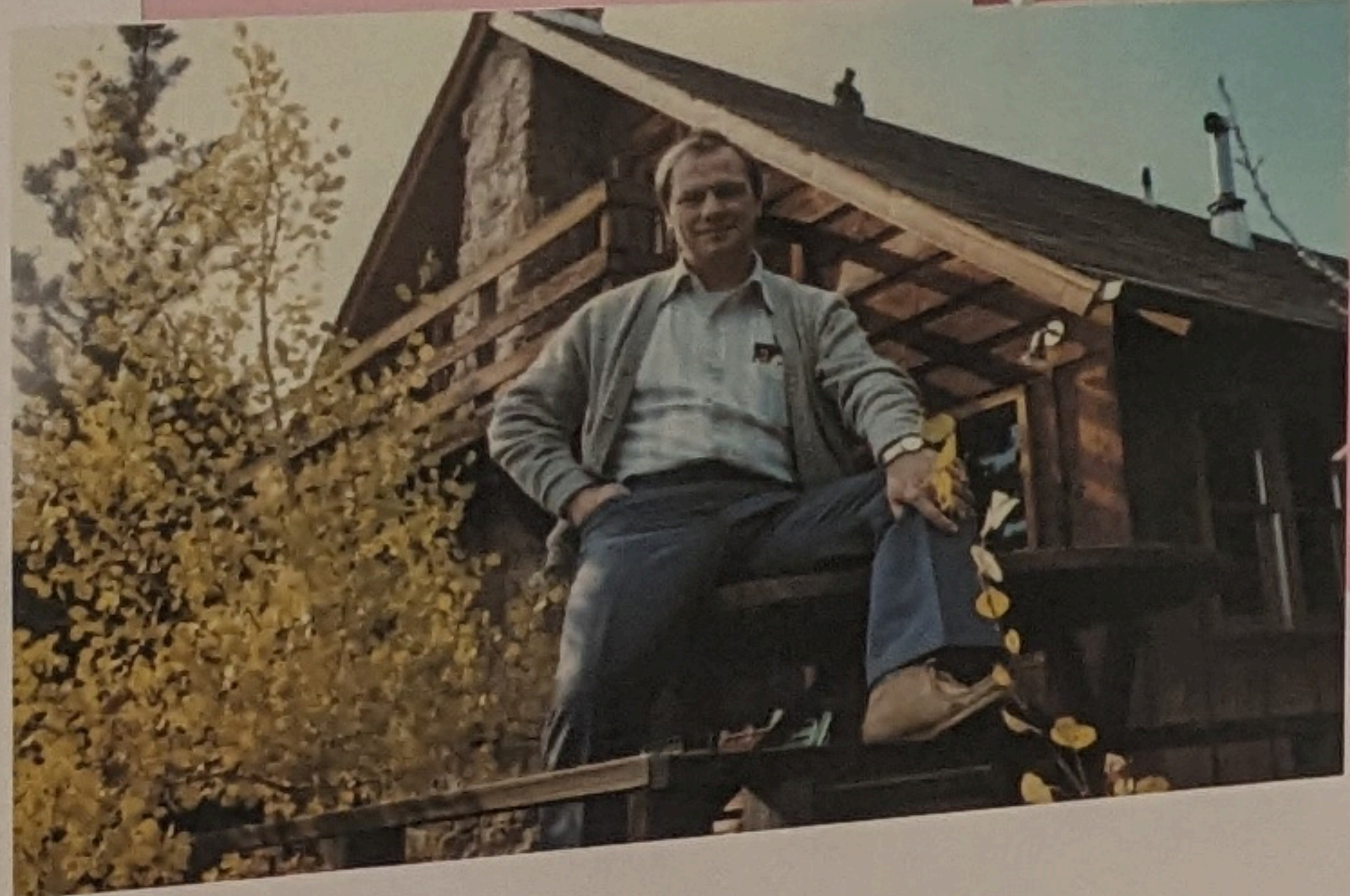


Thomas "Tom" Sutherland was a professor of animal sciences at Colorado State University from the 1950s through the 1980s. In 1983, Sutherland took what was intended to be a three year sabbatical to work as the Dean of Agriculture at the American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon.

*Wishing you a happy Valentine's Day Tom. We are thinking of you!*  
Angy Birdsell

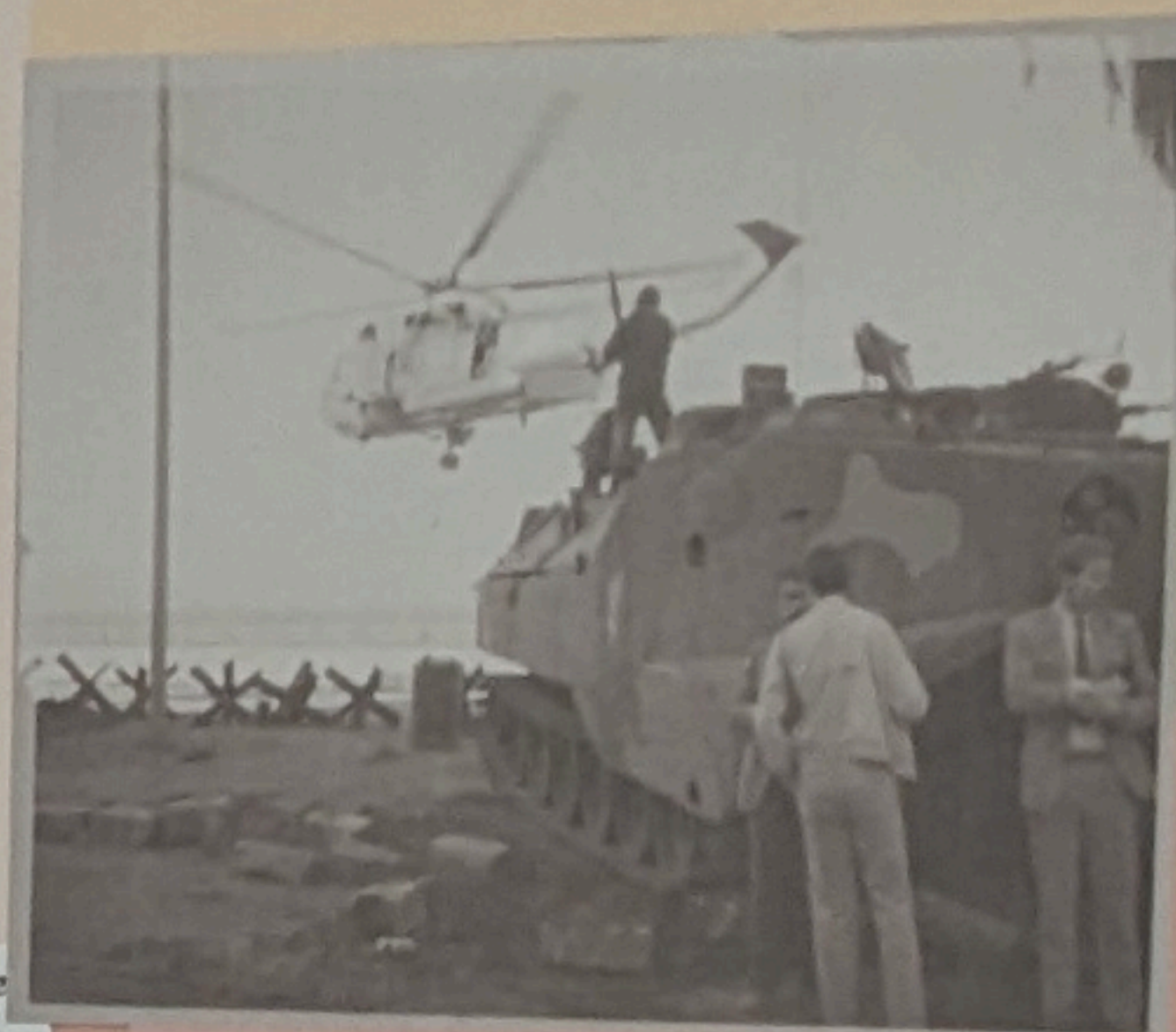


Tom and his wife, Jean, and two of his three daughters, Joan and Kit, moved there in the midst of the Lebanese Civil War, and, though warned about the prevalent threat of terrorism and kidnapping, Tom and Jean decided to stay in Beirut.



# Beirut kidnappers strike again

On June 9, 1985, after returning to Beirut from a trip home to Colorado, Islamic Jihad terrorists ambushed Sutherland's vehicle. The group of terrorists pulled Tom from his car, blindfolded him, forced him into another vehicle, and took him to an undisclosed location.



*Encouragement Note*  
Tom: I'm not really yellow about the terror as that all of us are constantly reminded that you have not been there. I'm sure that you are very close to being home. My wife and I are thinking of you and hope you are the same. Love, [unclear]



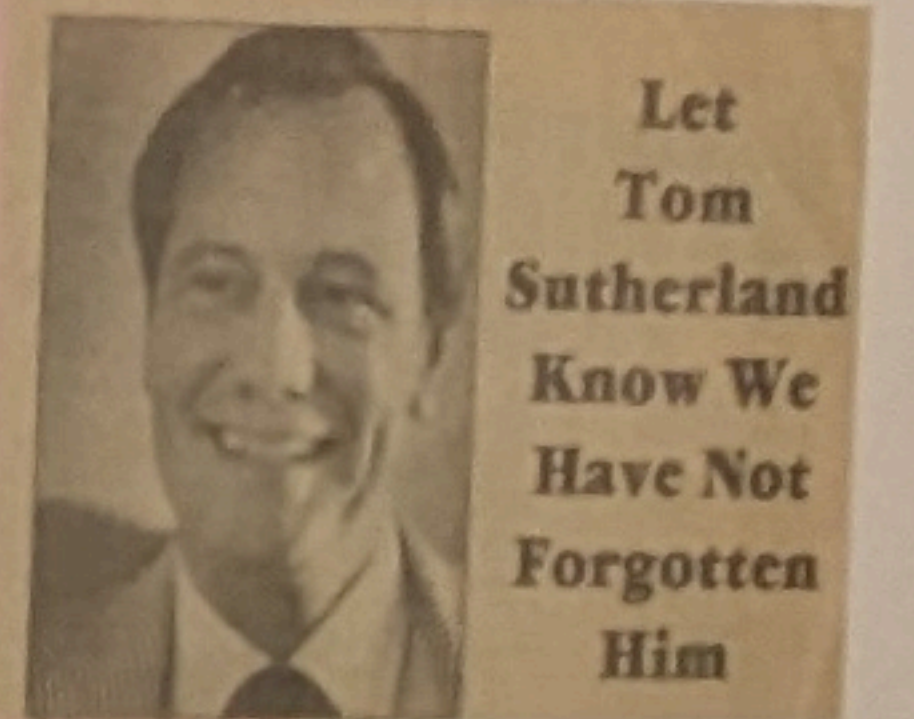
He recounted, "I didn't have time to more than quickly take in much of the surroundings before one young fellow cried out, 'They eyes; the eyes. Cover the eyes.' Though I blessedly didn't know it then, that was the last time I would see the sun for the next six and a half years."

## Mistaken identity?

The jokes stopped on June 9, 1985. Tom Sutherland was returning from the airport to the university when he was abducted by Moslem leftists who might have mistaken him for Calvin Plimpton, the university president.

# Valentines Day of 1988

Tom's family worked to free him. Jean stayed in Beirut. Ann, Kit, and Joan rallied communities across the U.S., especially Northern Colorado, to keep attention on their father and other captives.



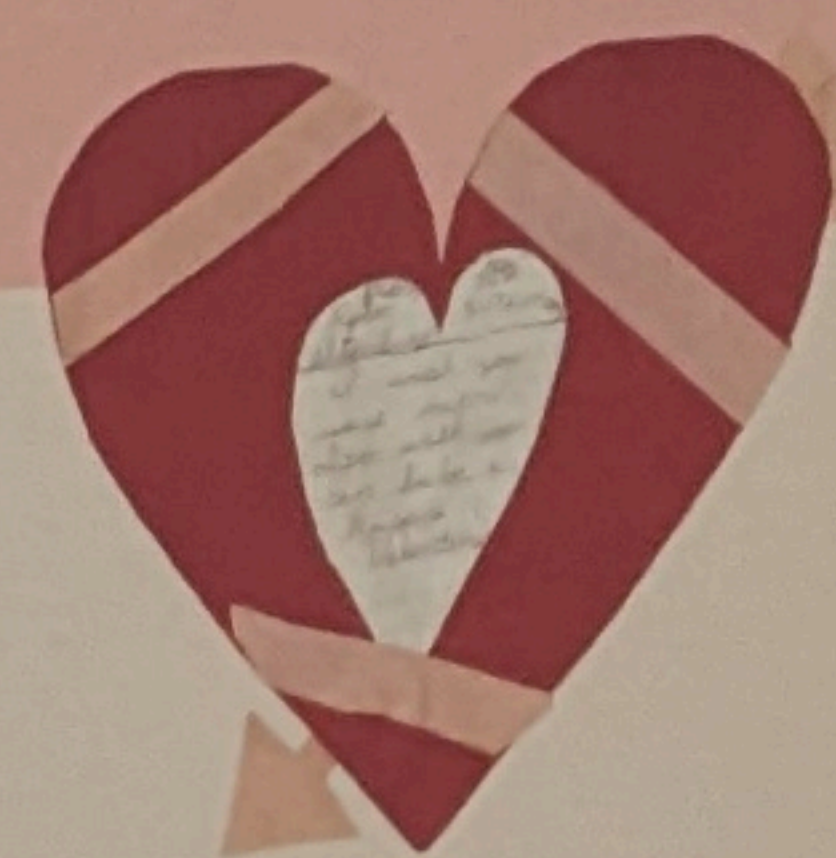
*My thoughts and best wishes are with you. I am sending this message of love and support so you will know you are not forgotten...*

*Hang in there - and know I am working with others to urge your release. I look forward to the day you return home. Please, best wishes.*  
Mary George

To put pressure on the State Department and attempt to reach Tom with encouragement, they created a Valentine's Day campaign in Tom's honor in 1988—three years after his kidnapping.

*Dear Tom,*  
I'm sorry you were kidnapped. I'm sure you're still in the middle of thinking of ways to get home. I'm sure you'll be home soon. I'll be praying for you. Love, [unclear]

*My thoughts are with you. Love, [unclear]*





November 20, 1991

Mr Thomas Sutherland and Family,  
"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."

Hebrews 13:3  
This verse is referenced on your bracelet which I have worn for the past 6 years. I would like for you to have it now. Admittedly, when I contributed to the organization and asked for a bracelet, I had no idea it would be such a long-term commitment! However, I did wear it constantly and you were therefore always in my thoughts and prayers.

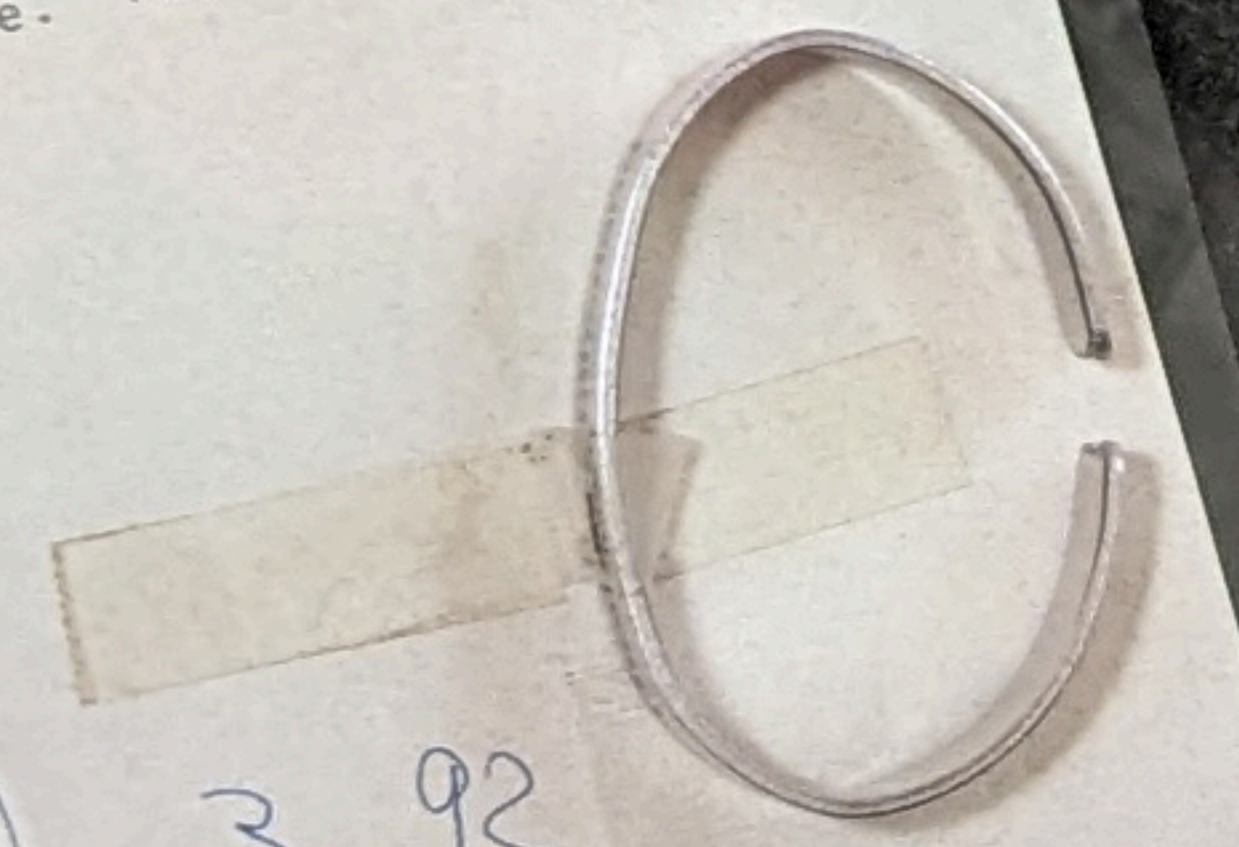
I have been a navigator in the Air Force for the past 13 years. Through this avenue, I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the world and discuss issues of hostage-release and terrorism with many people. Your bracelet created interest everywhere I went and was a good way to start conversations, as well as generate additional support.

Though we've never met, I feel connected to you from wearing your name on my arm for so long. I therefore share in the joy of your release, and am so very glad to see that you are in good health!

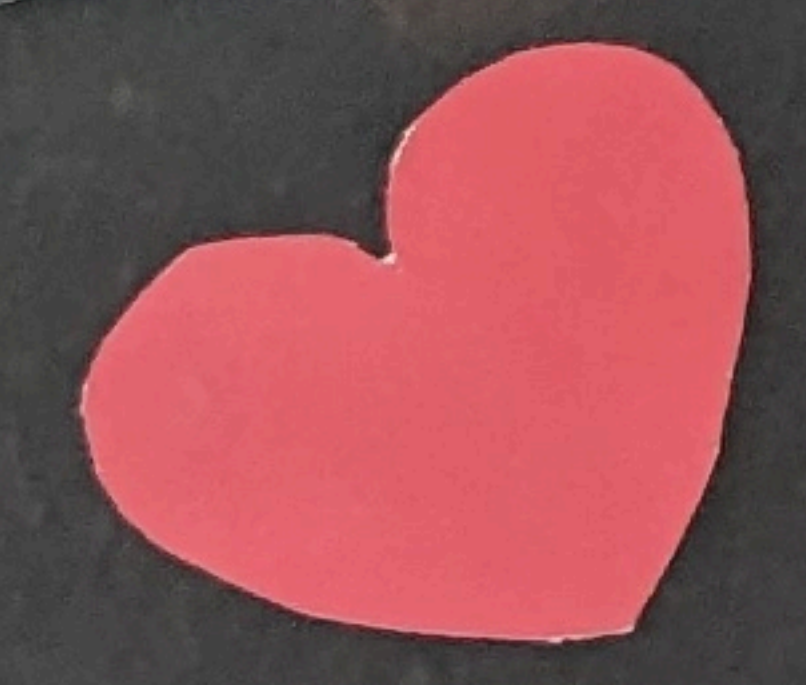
I know the demands on your time will be great. If you could spare a moment to let me know that you have in fact received this bracelet, I would be very appreciative. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,  
Pat Webb  
Patricia M. Webb  
7335 Genesta Ave.  
Van Nuys, CA 91406

*Wrote to her Jan 3, 92*



**Bracelet**  
A letter from Patricia M. Webb, an Air Force navigator, describes how she wore this bracelet for six years. The bracelet is engraved with Thomas Sutherland's name, the date of his kidnapping, and the Bible verse Hebrews 13:3. The verse reads, "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."



Sutherland bracelet accepted



**Churchman seeks understanding**  
By LINDA DOWLEN ROBERTS  
The Coloradoan  
Wilson, general director of the Program Agency of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., was a guest Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church.

Wilson — who has worked closely with Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite in his attempts to free American hostages in Beirut, including Colorado State University professor Tom Sutherland — said former hostages and the men still being held are not "plains saints" but ordinary human beings who are finding great human strength when faced with great suffering. Passages from the "Wells of Bound, Hostage Free" — Wilson said Weir raised as he was being taken into captivity in a speeding car driven by his abductors. "I wasn't going to have much freedom for a while and I'd better take control of my life."

Lots and lots of wishes...





**Button**  
 Blue pin-on button with yellow ribbon and illustrations of Terry Anderson (left) and Tom Sutherland (right) with the inscriptions "Iowa Staters Held hostage in Lebanon, 1985" and "We have not forgotten."

### Remembering Tom



TOGETHER: The family of Tom Sutherland, from left, Joan, Ann and her daughter Simone, Jean and Kit, will be attending activities at the Colorado State University Oval today marking the fourth anniversary of Tom's kidnapping.

#### Sutherland's fate unclear 4 years later

By DAVID JUDSON  
 WASHINGTON — As Tom Sutherland begins his fifth year as a pawn in the game of Middle East politics, the State Department word is: so change in policy, for deals, no more information.

Experts outside the federal government say there are several signs of a settlement among the warring factions in Lebanon that could bring freedom some day to Sutherland and the eight other Americans held hostage.

Even under the most optimistic scenario, Iran without Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is unlikely to end its sponsorship of terrorism and hostage-taking, say expatriate Iraqis who have become increasingly vocal

#### From Tom's family:

A letter to the community:  
 As we mark today the start of Tom's fifth year of captivity in the Middle East, I want to share with you something of what's in our minds and hearts. Coming to be here on this day has been in a very real sense a personal odyssey I have made for Tom, to touch into his sources in Scotland, Iowa and Colorado. What has come to me in these places amid family, friends and precious memories has been truly a happening that I will take back with me to Beirut to get somehow to Tom wherever he is — that he can draw the renewed strength to endure.

Today in Colorado is a special day in this journey. As the clan of family and friends gather for Tom on the Oval of Colorado State University "our collective will" is once again expressed for him in yellow ribbons, the bagpipes, and the joined hands of friendship. And it is vitality of Scottish roots, the university idea, a belief in world community, and you. May this go from the heart of one frontier university to that of another — American University of Beirut — and make a difference. And may this day mark not only the day of abduction but also the day of positive reaffirmation of our hope and faith in resolution of conflict, release, and reconciliation.

To you, our continuing community, we can only say from the deep gratitude of our hearts, thank you for being here for us and extending without fail the lifeline of your support through these years.

Colorado State University  
 Office of the President  
 100 Administration Building  
 Fort Collins, Colorado 80523  
 (303) 491-6211

"TOM SUTHERLAND AWARENESS DAY" PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas Sutherland, Colorado State University Professor serving as Dean of Agriculture at the American University of Beirut, has been held hostage in Lebanon for one thousand days since June 9, 1985; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sutherland is dedicated to serving mankind at home and abroad through sharing of knowledge and assisting people to help themselves; and

WHEREAS, in a spirit of peace and release, it is prudent and beneficial to remind ourselves to search constantly for solutions to injustice throughout the world with reason and patient diplomacy;

WHEREAS, this proclamation is offered as a symbol to provide a means of increased awareness for the cause of Dr. Sutherland and of ongoing support for his family and friends;

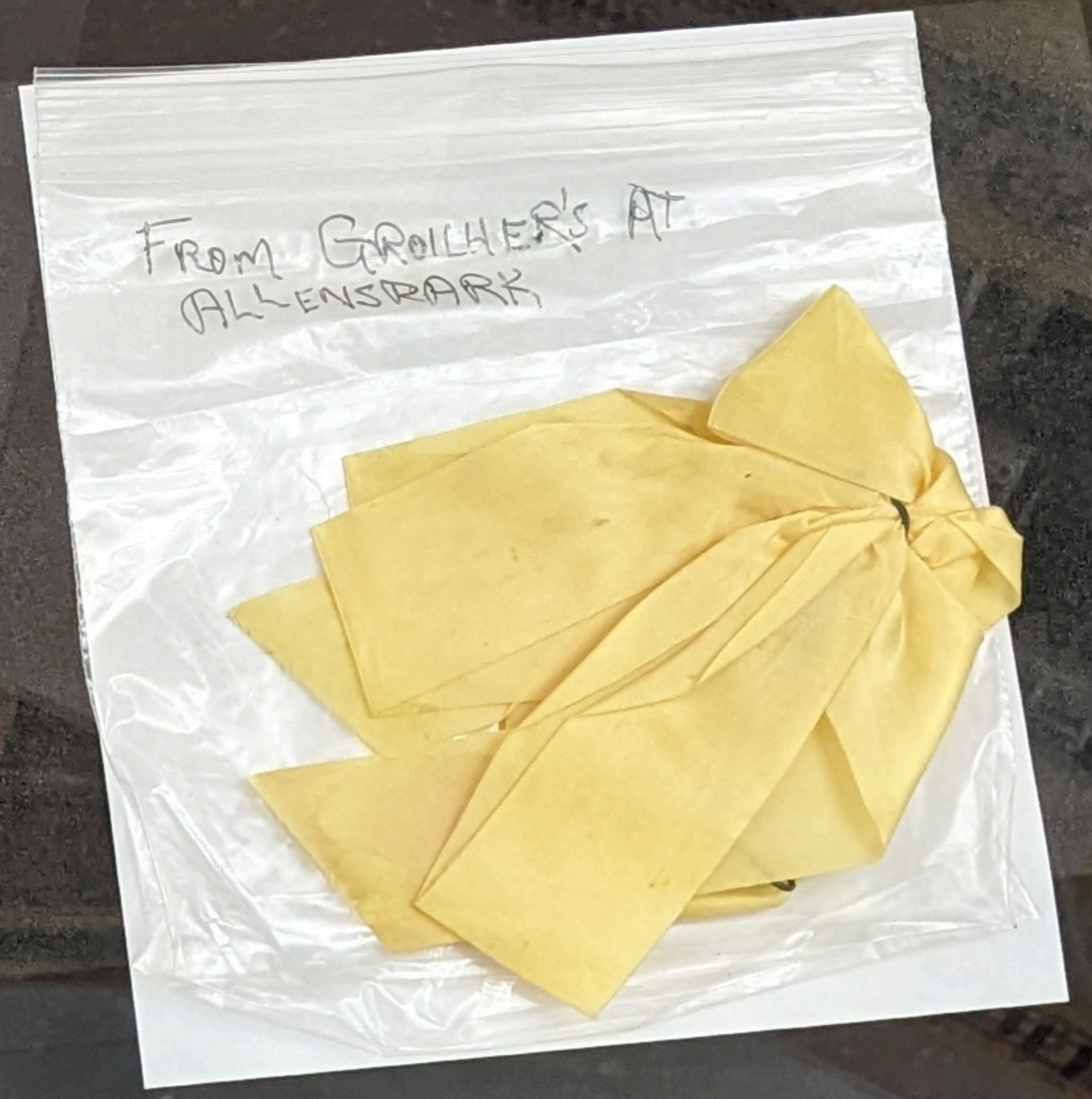
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip E. Austin, President of Colorado State University, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 4, 1988, as "Tom Sutherland Awareness Day," at Colorado State University in the fervent hope that Dr. Sutherland and all others held hostage will soon be released.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of Colorado State University this 26th day of February, 1988.

*Philip Austin*  
 Philip E. Austin  
 President



**Valentine's Message in As-Safir**  
 Pictured here is one of the only Valentine's messages Tom received during his time in captivity. Penned by his wife, Jean, a brief note and a family photo printed in the Arabic newspaper, *As-Safir*.



**Yellow Ribbon**  
 The yellow ribbon was an ode to the remembrance of hostages during both the Iran and Lebanon Hostage Crises. For Tom, yellow ribbons were wrapped around the iconic elm trees at CSU's Oval.

**Beirut daily prints card for hostage Sutherland**

By The Associated Press  
 BEIRUT, Lebanon — The leftist Beirut daily *As-Safir* on Saturday published a St. Valentine's Day message addressed to American hostage Thomas Sutherland from his family in Fort Collins.

"To Tom Sutherland. A Christmas picture with Valentine love, loyalty, strength, perseverance, and steadfast hope and faith," read the caption published along with a black-and-white picture.

The picture was signed by Sutherland's wife, Jean, and other members of the family.

Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped in Moslem west Beirut on June 9, 1985.

The Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, claims it abducted him.

The underground group, believed to be made up of radical Shiite Moslems loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, also claims to hold American journalist Terry Anderson.

Anderson, 40, chief Middle East correspondent for *The Associated Press*, is the longest-held of the foreign hostages in Lebanon. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985.

In all, 22 foreigners, including eight Americans, are missing and believed held by pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon.

In addition, a Swede and a Norwegian — both U.N. relief workers — were kidnapped eight days ago by armed Palestinians apparently acting without a political motive.

**TO TOM SUTHERLAND**  
 A Christmas Picture with Valentine Love, Loyalty, Strength, Perseverance, and Steadfast Hope and Faith  
 Beirut, Jean, Fort Collins- Joan and Kit, Berkeley- Ann Ph. D., Ray, and Simone

Associated Press

Card shows Sutherland's wife, Joan, foreground. In rear are his daughters Kit and Joan on ends and in center his daughter Ann Sutherland Keller and husband Ray and their child, Simone.



Jean Sutherland: "We need to keep the awareness alive... that American citizens are being held prisoner in Lebanon."

Dear Katherine  
 Barbara  
 holiday

As the Nation  
 thoughts are  
 ones held of  
 the prayer  
 the Middle  
 that my Ad  
 Tom home.

We also ho  
 brings con  
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 in the M  
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 With best

Good  
 You

Miss  
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