

Thanking America's heroes

The Lowell Sun
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Dear Mr. Unknown Soldier, Mr. Unfamiliar, Mr. Unidentified, Mr. Unfortunate.

Thanks isn't good enough, not for you. You flew by all the limitations, looking back at hard times like they were effortless. I hope this comes close to thanks.

I am grateful for your protection. Like a shield, you lost your life to save mine and the lives of all Americans. Whether a sword pierced your side or a bullet found your throat doesn't matter, for you gave your life for someone else's.

I applaud you for your services. You deserve more than medals and tenderly shed tears. You deserve an iron wall to hide you from your fears. Yet, at a young age you boldly ventured out from behind such protections, expanding your vision all around the world. From that day on, you are, you were, the bravest person I've ever met, never met.

I try to see myself overcoming the human boundaries that you have gracefully risen above. Though war is no thrill; you have always been there to prevent its evil hand before its grueling scenes reached our soft American eyes.

I now know, because of you, that it doesn't take super powers to be a hero. It takes more than that.

I know that the pile of remains your golden body ended up in, in The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, is not good enough for you.

I pray that your courageous being has flown elsewhere, finding the paradise it so rightly deserves.

With tremendous thanks and praise,

KATIE ENOS, 11

Crisafulli Elementary School

Westford

P.S. I thank all the soldiers who have died for the good of America, from the revolutionary militias to the fallen soldiers in Iraq.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
42ND INFANTRY DIVISION ARTILLERY
13 FIRETOWER ROAD
REHOBOTH, MA 02769

From: Commander, 42nd Infantry Division Artillery, 13
Firetower Road, Rehoboth, MA 02769

To: Katie Enos, Crisafulli Elementary School, 13 Robinson Road,
Westford, MA 01886

Subject: Letter of Appreciation

Dear Katie,

I would like to extend to you my sincere thanks and appreciation for your words on this Memorial Day. There are many among us that by the grace of god are granted the gift of living when so many others were asked to make the ultimate sacrifice for this nation. It is comforting to know that in many hearts Memorial Day carries with it the message you so beautifully articulated.

President Lincoln spoke of dedications to fallen soldiers - in words that time has yet to challenge in either their eloquence or their powerful truth.

"The brave men, living and dead, who struggled, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say, but it can never forget what they did. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work - work which they who fought have thus far so nobly advanced.

It is rather for us to be dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause, for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

The strength which you recognize and that every service man or woman and their friends and family enjoys comes from people like you and others that recognize that a commitment to the task of preserving freedom is one of the greatest gifts this nation bestows upon its citizens. But as with any gift of value, it bears a price that too often is forgotten.

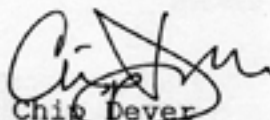
We all enjoy the freedom that so many so selflessly gave their life to advance. They preserved the freedom of their countrymen, a freedom that many take for granted, and so many more around our world are unfortunately still denied.

As a proud citizen and soldier of the republic, it is my sincere pleasure to thank you on behalf of those who I have known, who

looked down on this Memorial Day and took comfort and compliment
on behalf of a grateful nation through your thoughtful words.

Thank you Katie - and may god bless you and your family.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Dever", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Chip Dever

COL, FA

Commanding

42nd Infantry Division Artillery

Katie,

The enclosed unit coin is part of a long tradition in the Army. This coin is one of about 500 like it that I had made during my time in Iraq. I presented them to soldiers who in my estimation had done something of significance or had done some small thing on behalf of another soldier, and therefore deserved to be recognized for that contribution.

The coin I am giving to you belonged to my father. Don't worry he had 2, and although he hasn't seen your letter yet, when he does, I'm confident he won't be upset that I passed this one along to you.

I am proud to present you with this small measure of my appreciation for your words on Memorial Day. I hope that you will keep it as a symbol of your contribution to the healing of comrades, the families and friends of those that have lost loved ones in service of our great nation.

Thank you,

