



SPC Adam Michael Johnson serving in Iraq

"A Hero does something because it is the right thing to do, whether it is to help someone in need, save someone's life, or just bring a smile to someone's face to brighten their day. They do not stop to think of themselves first before they act and are not afraid to act" ~George

I was much younger when I remember the discussions about what sort of memorial should be built in honor of the Vietnam Veterans. I was not as interested in the type of memorial they would erect, as I was in the fact that they finally decided to honor those soldiers. When the decision was made to build a wall with all the names of the soldiers who lost their lives in that war I thought it was an interesting concept, but never did I think it would have the impact it did when I saw it in person. It was unbelievable to me that my emotions would be so strong, as I looked at the many names on that wall and thought of the sacrifice these people were willing to give in support of what our country asked of them. The number of people who did not agree with the war is well documented, but these soldiers were willing to give the ultimate sacrifice when asked to do so. The politics and the reasoning behind any war is a topic of discussion for far more intellectual minds than mine. My thoughts and concerns are for the men and women who are the real heroes.

As Martin Luther King stated long ago – "I have a dream..."

My dream is to build another wall, but instead of a wall consisting of our fallen heroes - My wall would be a list of the people who want to send a "Hug" to our soldiers letting them know we appreciate their sacrifice and their valor. This list would have the names of Americans living freely in this great country because of the soldiers who leave their homes, their families and are willing to give the ultimate sacrifice if called upon to do so.

America is a strong vibrant country, but what makes this country so great is when we put our hearts and hands together in support of each other - no one can beat us.

At the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back.....every one of them. One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

The reason I share this story is that supporting and winning everything for ourselves is nothing when you compare it to winning the race together. Americans have differences, but the one fact remains and that is we respect our differences and we value life. After September 11th I saw a united country ready to stand side by side. Let us not forget what it felt like to be attacked, but more importantly let us remember what it felt like to be united as Americans. United we stand, divided we fall.

I recently told a Veteran of this little project and he responded with the following:

I still remember back in '53 when I was overseas and received a pineapple upside down cake sent to me by my mother. It was not all together after the 6000 mile journey, but me and my buddies thoroughly enjoyed it...I got the first piece and the rest disappeared quickly. Funny how we remember small things like that, yet forget more important (?) things in our past....Lee

Though it is not a "pineapple upside down cake" please help us give our soldiers a little fond memory of a "Hug from Grammy," and join our list of heroes who can bring a little smile and support to our soldiers when they need it most. We will wrap up a "BIG HUG" in our Chocolate Chip Cookies. Though it is a small gesture we are hopeful that it will be a little reminder of home, how much they are all missed, and let them know our hearts are linked together in support and appreciation to each and every one of them. We will finish the race together side by side as Americans.

If you will purchase one cookie for one dollar we will send a cookie to our soldiers from you and add your name to "Grammy's Wall of Heroes." If you are a member of a group or organization that would like to purchase 50 or more cookies we will place your organization's name on our list of heroes with a star beside the name. For every 50 cookies you or your organization will purchase a star will be added beside the name. For each star we will send 50 cookies in your behalf. (I hope we can add 50 stars beside each organizations name.)

Our goal is to "send a million hugs to our soldiers." Please join the list of "Grammy's Heroes" and bring a little smile to the faces of the soldiers willing to give the ultimate sacrifice so we can live in this great nation freely. One Nation under God.

"George" *Please contact us if you would be interested in selling or purchasing these "hugs" at any special event you will be attending*