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The Sacrifice Of The American Soldier By: Skypilot Freelance Writer And Combat Veteran

I was sitting in my chair in the family room watching "Hanoi Hilton", when I received a text from my Daughter In Law with my son's picture and one line "He's Back". This I thought was great and what a wonderful Christmas for the family, especially his bride.

> It really got me thinking about the sacrifices that Men and Woman who have served this country have given up in the name of "FREEDOM". Got me thinking of the stories I heard growing up from uncles and from comrades I served with in Vietnam and think the biggest one I always heard (to include my personal thoughts) was being away from home and family during all the holidays and birthdays.

ing an article this morning about a young man who pawned his Purple Heart to pay for Christmas for his loved ones. The "Homeless Veterans" a term that should not

even be heard in America. It is bad enough we have homeless let alone veterans. We as a country have benefits to raise for people in other countries and I'm talking millions of dollars. I have a great ideal why don't we get together as a nation and try to solve the homeless problem, help out American's for a change. Remember "A country that forgets it's Warriors, is also forgotten".

I would like to take the time now to THANK those who have ever served this nation abroad or stateside for everything they have sacrificed for my family and myself and to "WELCOME HOME" all those men and woman who have returned home in time to be with their families for this holiday.

I guess many forget what people who serve really give up when they sign that contract which also includes a blank check that includes their lives if necessary for their fellow man, no matter if it is American or the life of a family from another country they have been called to protect.

Throughout history there have been thousands of men and yes woman who have answered the call of duty with out themselves thinking of the sacrifices they would be facing, to include myself. When I was in Vietnam I really never thought about the holidays and birthdays until the first one that came around. All I can say is that is probably one of the biggest sacrifices, other then giving a limb or your life that our Troops face.

If you have a person around where you live and they have made it back for this Christmas, congratulate them and thank them, I'm sure they would be happy to hear it.

Well as always thank you for reading our newspaper and be safe out on the roads. May God Bless each and everyone of you. Until next time "KEEP ON TRIKEN'" and say a pray for those who still are serving, as well as our POWs & MIAs to include their families who wait for closure. Even though the holidays have come and gone, this article means a lot to those who are serving. "GOD BLESS AMERICA" and her "DEFENDERS OF FREEDOM"!

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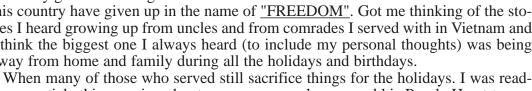
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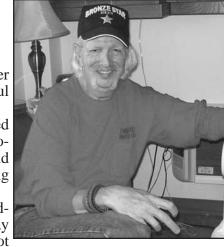
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FROM THE DESK OF JOE WEIGEL:

You do not need to be a super hero to make a difference. Just pick one or two projects important to you; donate your time and talent; give of yourself. Whether it is ABATE; your church; a food pantry; music; the arts; your local humane society. Donate time. Give back as best you can. Even if it is one or two hours per month.





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