

I Served

When the Germans stormed Europe and the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, I raised my hand and said "I'll serve."

When the Koreans from the north invaded the south, I stood up proudly and said "I'll serve."

When the government drafted me to fight in the jungles of Vietnam, I did not run and hide, nor burn the flag, but simply said "I'll serve."

I was there in Desert Storm to return to Kuwait its sovereignty. Once again I said "I'll serve."

When the Berlin Wall and the Curtain fell, Eastern Europe was finally set free. I said "I'll promote democracy. These countries need our help. So, yes, of course I'll serve."

When the twin towers crashed to the ground, I stood up strong and once again pronounced "I WILL serve."
Beaches, mountains, jungles, sand, I picked up my rifle and made a stand. I served.

While others turned their backs and spoke rhetoric without action, I was there on the front lines.

In many places around the world, I was sent to establish peace. From our embassies in dark, lonely places, I faced the dangers of warring tribes and said "I'll serve."

I knew that I was not alone in promoting democracy, for when I looked to my left and I looked to my right, there were many patriots just like me

Americans, have you forgotten the many times I have stood protecting this country against enemies foreign and domestic? The many times I and my fellow patriots risked injury and death so that you might remain free and enjoy the liberties and justice that have been the hallmark of our democracy?

Beaches, mountains, jungles, sand, I picked up my rifle and I made a stand for freedom, liberty and justice for all. I served.

Although I retain the fervor of my youth, my body is tired, weak and sore from many visible and invisible wounds that I received while serving.

My time to serve should be done. I'm told that money is scarce and I am no longer needed. I'm told that what was once promised for my service must now be curtailed.

Service falls to a new generation. The torch is passed to younger heroes who continue what we have started.

What will become of them when they can no longer fight to protect our liberties and those of our allies and friends? Are we to become merchants of war, hired and fired as the politicians dictate?

I can hope that we will no longer have to go to war, but that will never be. While our youth commits its strength and dedication, what commitments can be made by those who have never stood up to say "I'll serve?"

But if my country needed me, then once more my patriotism would spring forth and again I would say "I'll serve."

As long as I have but one breath left in this body, I will give my country all I can. I am first a patriot, an American who believes in freedom and security.

I serve this great country because it is the right thing to do. I'll never begrudge that I fought.

I only ask that, at this time, America forgets me not.

Beaches, mountains, jungles, sand, I picked up my rifle and made a stand. I served.