



We Salute Our Troops!

An Open Letter

This marks the 40th Veteran's Day since I arrived in Vietnam and this plus answering some questions from CJ Clayton (By the way, thank you CJ) has brought some thoughts to the surface I wanted to share about our veterans. As I watch our men and women come and go from Iraq, at times my heart aches for them and for their families. While those of us at home like to sit back and cheer for these folks there are some things we really need to remember. This is not a football game and we need to no longer treat this as such. We have to realize that no matter how hard these young people try, and believe me they will, they will never be the same. There are certain sights and terrors that never leave your psyche and for the survivors it is especially hard. We should respect the sacrifices that those who have lost their lives have made but we should never forget the survivors as their lives are changed forever and there will be a large number who actually feel guilty about returning especially those that have lost friends. I only spent twelve months in a combat zone and I can only imagine the stress of fifteen-month reoccurring tours. When I came back you pretty much knew you were done unless you volunteered or had a real critical job like a helicopter pilot. Plus, I can only guess at the stress foisted on the families at home.

We need to have understanding for these people as they will be trying to pick up life where they left off but will never be able to do that exactly. My father used to tell my wife at the time that I wouldn't come home and I thought that a cruel thing to do until I finally realized that he was correct. The kid from small town Ohio never did come home and no matter how hard I tried I was never the same nor was life the same. My father just didn't know how to express it properly. It took many years, probably at least twenty-five or thirty to understand the changes that happened. I still, to this day, cannot listen to taps or watch combat vets coming home on the news but I feel I did better than average of turning my life around to being a productive member of society.

Regrettably some of my friends never came home mentally. I had a friend in Parma, Ohio that I served with and kept in contact with until his death in 2005 that never really came home. He tried but never got his life back on track. He married his high school sweetheart but never established a real life here while he still dealt with the life over there. It never left his mind and was a daily trial to deal with. I really hope he is finally at peace.

I guess what I am trying to say is that we must support our veterans, especially the combat veterans and respect what they have been through and what they have seen even if they don't wear it on their sleeve and even those that served as supposed support troops have memories and issues to deal with. Some good and a lot bad. Also their families and loved ones have gone through an awful lot. Sometimes not knowing is worse than being there. Show your support and hopefully our government will finally give these folks the support they deserve because they have earned it not by glory but by quietly doing their job and living their lives as best they can. I just saw a news story that said that 25% of the homeless are veterans. If you see one give them a hand and a smile. A thank you will also help as they feel that no one else on the earth knows what they have been through.

Thanks for taking the time to put up with my thought sharing.

Jim Miller
All Midwest Sales

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to Our Troops

"LET THEM NOT BE FORGOTTEN"

Exedy Globalparts Corporation conducted a holiday project to send "Christmas/Holiday Packages" to our U.S. troops overseas for the holiday season. This was their way of supporting our service personnel overseas and making sure that they have a special treat during the Christmas/Holiday season.

Here are samples of the various items that they collected: Books, Media, Inexpensive DVDs, Magazines, Handheld games (poker, keno, bingo), Cookies, CDs, Soaps, Shampoos, Snack food (they love lots of snacks), Cheese/Cracker packs, Tootsie Pops, Hard Candy, Visine, Lotions, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Christmas Decorations, Christmas Cards, Baby Wipes, Face Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Playing Cards, Dominos, Gloves, Cheerful Cards, Long Johns, Safety Sunglasses, Prepaid Phone cards, Small canned food, Canned chips/pretzels/snacks, etc.

Exedy Globalparts Corporation
Management & Staff