

18 September 2006

To members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital  
From John W. Pfeiffer

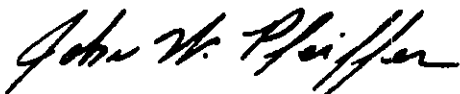
This is to say thank-you. On 26 February 1969 I was in desperate need of your services, which you gave in a superior, professional, and caring way.

I was a Staff Sergeant with Delta Company, 1/8<sup>th</sup> Cav., 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division.

That day a booby trap exploded sending many fragments into my body. My condition was as follows: multiple fragment wounds to almost every part of my body, both lungs were punctured, one lung collapsed, a fragment was in the muscle of my heart and the pulmonary artery was punctured. As I said before, I was in desperate need of your services, talents and skills. You gave all to me and took better care of me than I deserved. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. calls itself the FIRST TEAM. I say the 12<sup>th</sup> Evac. is THE BEST. After my surgery, a man that I assume was a doctor told me that if I had gotten to you five minutes later I would have been dead. You saved my life. In Tokyo when they brought groups of doctors around to tell them of the injuries and treatment of different people they came to my bed. The doctors would always seem to be surprised. Even the ones that didn't speak English would have an astonished look on their face when it was explained to them. One doctor stepped forward and told me that I should not have been able to survive those wounds. He didn't know how good the people of the 12<sup>th</sup> Evac. was.

All these years, I have wanted to say thank you particularly to the people involved and to all medical people in general. It seems that you in the medical units talk even less than we grunts and I never saw anyone to really say thank you to. When I saw the notice of your reunion, I had to email Colonel Holmes with the hope that he would extend my great gratitude to you all. You performed a great service and should be very proud of yourselves. You could not save all of us but thanks to you most of us lived. I regret the hardship and trauma I and other grunts put upon you. You have suffered your wounds of war in silence and with the dignity with which you also served. ALL of you are to be thanked, honored, respected and appreciated so very much. This country owes you and people like you a deep debt of gratitude. You are my heroes.

I thank you, my family thanks you, and the two children I bore after returning home thank you. You are THE BEST.



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