

APRIL 20, 1992
DON THOMSON

DEAR DON, &

TO ALL THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA,

I AM SO SORRY IT HAS TAKEN SO LONG TO GET THIS LETTER TO YOU. YOU SEE, I HAVE BEEN WAITING ON THIS LOCATOR, WITH THESE NAMES IN IT, IN ORDER TO WRITE THIS LETTER. I AM AN UN-IMPORTANT INDIVIDUAL THAT YOU DON'T KNOW. BUT I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU. "THANK YOU." THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE IN VIETNAM. THANK YOU FOR FIGHTING AND KEEPING ME FREE AND MOST OF ALL, AMERICA. I KNOW THIS IS LONG OVER DUE, PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGY.

MY HUSBAND, SON AND BROTHER WERE IN OPERATION DESERT STORM. THEY GOT A TREMENDOUS WELCOME WHEN THEY CAME HOME. WELL, I THOUGHT IN MY HEART, HOW WRONG, BECAUSE I WAS HERE WHEN THE GUYS CAME BACK FROM VIETNAM. THERE WAS NO THANK YOU OR NO DESERVED PARADES. I DID SPEAK TO SEVERAL AND TELL THEM, "THIS IS WHAT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE WHEN THE GUYS CAME HOME FROM VIETNAM, TOO." OF COARSE EVERYONE LOOKED AT ME VERY FUNNY. BUT I DIDN'T REALLY CARE.

I HAVE WRITTEN TO ALL THE GUYS FROM THREE DIFFERENT LOCATOR NEWSPAPERS, AND TO MY AMAZEMENT, I GOT A RESPONSE BACK. I WAS VERY PROUD, JUST TO KNOW THEY TOOK THE TIME TO ANSWER. YOU SEE WHEN I STARTED THIS PROJECT WAS WHEN OPERATION DESERT STORM WAS OVER. AND, I HAD MADE A PROMISE TO GOD THAT IF HE WOULD LET MY HEALTH STAY ABOUT THE SAME, I WOULD SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE HELPING OTHERS. I AM TRYING TO KEEP THE PROMISE. AND THIS IS MY GREATEST PROJECT I THINK I HAVE EVER DONE. IT MAKES ME FEEL GREAT INSIDE. YOU SEE I HAVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS, BUT I AM FORTUNATE, I AM NOT IN THE CONDITION THAT SOME PEOPLE WITH MS.

WHEN I STARTED WRITING EVERYONE, I NEVER EXPECTED TO EVER GET A LETTER BACK. BUT WHEN I DID, I WAS HONORED. I STARTED THEN MAKING A SCRAP BOOK OF ALL MY LETTERS AND SOME SENT MAPS, PATCHES, PICTURES AND ALL SORTS OF THINGS. THINGS I WILL TREASURE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. THEY TOLD ME THINGS THEY DID WHILE ON TOUR, UNITS THEY WERE IN, YEARS THEY WERE THERE, EVERYTHING. I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR STORY. BUT IF IT IS TOO PAINFUL, I'LL UNDERSTAND.

I'LL GO FOR NOW. AGAIN THANK YOU FOR MY FREEDOM. IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR YOU I WOULD NOT BE A FREE PERSON NOW. TAKE CARE. AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS.

A FRIEND WHO CARES,
SANDRA KAY BOOZER

PS. THIS DID NOT COME FROM THE LOCATOR. I RECEIVED A PAPER FROM ANOTHER GUY WITH ALL THESE ADDRESSES ON IT. I JUST WANTED EVERY LETTER THAT I WROTE TO THE VIETNAM VETERAN TO BE THE SAME.