

FOREWORD

Just as the stories revealed on the pages that follow, it is very hard to imagine how one decision can change the course of so many lives. Since the day my child made his decision to join the United States Army, nothing has been the same, my eyes were opened to a world that I never imagined could impact me so powerfully; The realism that our Nation has been built on the strength, courage and blood of our truest source of heroes; *our soldiers, marines, airmen and sailors.*

For the past three years, as the President of Operation First Response, Inc., I have had the honor to serve our wounded and their families. I have been able to witness first hand their strength and devotion. I have walked the halls of Walter Reed Army Medical and felt the presence of heroes. It's impossible to spend five minutes with them without transformed and inspired by their patriotism for our Country and the love they have for their comrades.

Voice of a Soldier gives an accurate portrayal of the many military heroes that have been lost in conflicts throughout our history. The actions discussed were sometimes their last, however, those acts often changed the lives that they left behind forever. Some will be remembered in the tear of a fellow comrade on Veteran's Day and others will have their names carried on by the first-born son of a battle buddy, however, all will be remembered each time our Flag is raised.

As you read each story of valor in, *Voice of a Soldier*, you will begin to realize that these are not just words on paper, but lives that have changed the course of our great Nation. Stories that continuously need to be told: continuously need to be heard and never, ever forgotten.

By Peggy Baker
Voice of a Soldier's mom
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