

To all of you,

28 Apr 2008

Normally I would write you a hand written letter to show the gratitude you all deserve for thinking of us here in Iraq. I returned a few days ago from a 3 week trip in which I participated in the Medal of Honor ceremony for MA2 Michael Monsoor (Mikey). My last deployment here in Iraq was in the city of Ramadi. In 2006, it was the worst city in the Al Anbar province and possibly, all of Iraq. I was fortunate to serve day to day with the detachment members of Naval Special Warfare (NSW SEAL) Team 3. As many of you have already found out, I was wounded May 16 2006 in Ramadi. I am here today because of Mikey, a few of the other SEALs, and my 3 Marines.

I attended the MOH ceremony at the White House and the Hall of Heroes induction at the Pentagon. I was also part of the Awards ceremony in which 2 of the SEALs received Silver Stars and 2 received Bronze stars for helping to save my life. I will tell you it is a humbling experience to be wounded in battle and to rely on another man to save your life.

I continue to serve our great nation because it is truly all I have ever really wanted. As an amputee I have the constant reminder of May 16th and will always be a new awakening. I do not regret the day nor do I regret the circumstances. My injury, in battle, has opened a world of friendships. I thank you!

I returned from a humbling experience to a room full of boxes and letters. Each box with my name on it and the additional, "ANY MARINE". I have served our great nation with pride for 19 years and it brings me to tears to see the love and support you provide to us all. Today I handed one of those boxes to a young female Marine. She has never met me. Here is what she wrote to me.

GySgt. Gibson,

Thank you so much for that care package! It really did make my day! There were letters in the package from two students from West Newbury, MA. They left their email addresses, so I sent them thank-you letters as well.

Thank you very much for thinking of me. Have a great day!
LCPL. McMurray, M.J.

That is what you do for so many Marines that you will never meet. From the bottom of my heart, I THANK YOU. I will never forget any of you.

Sincerely,

Spanky
GySgt Spanky Gibson

P.S. I have received so many letters and packages I am behind writing to you all. I will be up to speed soon and back to writing. Spanky