

Dear Sir,

What do you say to a veteran I ask myself? How can you put into words the magnitude of their sacrifice that has enabled me to be where I am and to be a veteran myself? Sometimes the words 'Thank You' just don't seem like enough to tell someone who braved the unspeakable horrors of war. But that is exactly what I want to tell you, *Thank You* for your sacrifice! After 17 years in the Navy, I have been fortunate enough not to have seen the travesties that you have endured but I am honored to have fallen in your footsteps to protect a nation where my son can grow up and be who he wants to be. *Thank you* for stepping forward when others stepped back and placing yourself between us and danger because if you hadn't, I wouldn't be able to sit here expressing my most sincere gratitude.

I know that in today's world it may seem like your efforts were in vain but they weren't! We walk our streets with pride, we hold our heads up high and we know that we couldn't possibly be where we are at without you. But the truth is there will never be enough ways possible to say *Thank You* and there are surely not enough memorials to depict your honor in our great country and the bravery in peril it required. People may seem to carry on with their lives, forgetting the past and the people it took to get where we are today but there are people like me who realize without the past, there is no future...you gave us our future, fighting for our freedom and defending our county.

In a country that in this day in age seems to be driven by turmoil and chaos, we are still a free nation because of people like you. We are a country full of wonderful yet sometimes crazy to me ideals, but they are our own that we can freely express. Please, think of all the good things about America so that you will remember your sacrifice was not in vain!

I am a United States Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer and I strive to maintain what your heroism has accomplished, to defend our way of life. You fought in a war with no promise to prevail and unknowing if you would return to your families, you changed the lives for American's for lifetimes to come...you will never be forgotten and you will forever be MY hero!

Respectfully,

Liaunna Schermerhorn

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