



## Walter D. Ehlers

May 17, 1921 - February 20, 2014

Walter David Ehlers (May 7, 1921 – February 20, 2014) was a United States Army soldier and a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in World War II.

Born on May 7, 1921, in Junction City, Kansas, Ehlers joined the Army from the city of Manhattan in October 1940.[2] He and his older brother Roland served in the same unit and participated in the fighting in North Africa and Sicily.[3]

By D-Day on June 6, 1944, Ehlers was a staff sergeant and squad leader in the 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. His squad, part of the invasion's second wave, waited off shore in a Landing Craft, Infantry, while the first group of soldiers landed. When the first wave became pinned down on the beach, his unit was transferred to a Higgins boat and sent forward early to assist. They fought their way off the beach and by June 9 were near the town of Goville, 8 miles (13 km) inland.[3] On that day, he led his unit's attack against German forces and single-handedly defeated several enemy machinegun nests. The next day, his platoon came under heavy fire and he covered their withdrawal, carried a wounded rifleman to safety, and continued to lead despite his own wounds.[4] For his actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor six months later, on December 19, 1944.

On July 14, more than a month after D-Day, Ehlers learned that his brother Roland had died at Omaha Beach when his landing craft was struck by a mortar shell.[3]

He appeared in the 1955 film *The Long Gray Line*, starring Tyrone Power.

Ehlers died on February 20, 2014 of natural causes.

Services will be held Saturday, March 8th at Riverside National Cemetery at 1:00p.m.

- The following was taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter\\_D.\\_Ehlers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_D._Ehlers)

# Tribute Wall

WG

“ *God Bless this man! A true hero!*

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**Wayne Greer** - January 12, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ *SSGT Ehlers was an outstanding Man at Arms. He cherished and carried out those values so eloquently expressed by 5 Star General Douglas MacArthur, "Duty, Honor , Country" Those three hallowed words tell you what you ought to be, what you can be and what you will be", your rallying point a beacon in the night. His men came first. I proudly have his pictures on my Den "WALLS OF HONOR" May GOD continue to bless his entire family !!We have lost a cherished soldierChris Christopher, Wesley Chapel Florida*

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**Cranston Christopher** - July 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

VN

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*Valenda Newell,*

*Indianapolis, Indiana*

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**Valenda Newell** - November 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ I did not know Mr. Ehlers, but heard about his service to our country. We are free because of men like him, who risked it all in World War II. I thank God for men like him. Blessings to his family!

James Gillespie - April 24, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HJ

“ May he rest in peace. I was just looking up my family history and found out he was my many greats grandpa. Its so amazing what he did, it makes me wonder what he would of been like in person. R.I.P.

Haven Johnson - February 26, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ A prayer for a brave American. Rip.

Lena Williams - February 01, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ We had the privilege of praying with this special man during his last year at the Veterans' Hospital in Long Beach CA. He fought so that we can enjoy our American freedom, which includes the freedom to pray. God Bless Mr. Ehlers. Douglas A. Brown, Ph.D., and Sandra P. Scherf

Douglas Brown - May 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Thank you for your service. May you rest in Heavenly peace

Judy Messer - March 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ During the time that a family loses a loved one emotions are everywhere, you are down and feel like you have no one but God is close to those that are broken hearted. ( Psalm 34 : 18 ) My prayers are with you and your family.

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**Dominique Anderson** - March 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I did not know Mr. Ehlers, but I thank him for his service in World War II and his subsequent service to veterans. He and others like him are the true heroes of our nation. My condolences to the family on the loss of this wonderful man.

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March 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ thank you Walter.A real hero.

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**Bob Mann** - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ The Ehlers' family, I'm sorry for your loss. Walter certainly lived a full life and made everyone's life around him better for knowing him. May he rest in peace.

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**Brian Lewis** - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ My deepest sympathy. May The Lord bless you and comfort you during this very difficult time. Peggy Jackson (Covey Lamm's daughter)

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**Peggy Jackson** - March 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ SIR: ONE DAY I WILL MEET YOU AND WE SHALL TRAVEL THE BATTLE FIELDS TOGETHER...SIR: THANK YOU SIR:SAM DUKE101 AIRBORNENAM 1968/69

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March 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ This past Christmas I visited the VA hospital with my two little pomeranians Chyna and Winston. We had a great time visiting with Walt and the rest of the family. Tonight we visited again and received the news. I am very sorry to hear about your loss. Walt was an exceptional soldier and very caring person. He will be missed dearly. I plan to attend the memorial this weekend in my uniform. If you need any help with escorting or any other volunteer service please let me know. [email protected]

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**Capt Autumn Lorenz** - March 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ We are never prepared for death especial that of a love one, it is the hardest things we can go through so please find comfort in knowing sickness, pain and death will one day be no more for this has been promised to us. Please except my deep condolences.

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March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ This past Christmas I visited the VA hospital with my two little pomeranians Chyna and Winston. We had a great time visiting with Walt and the rest of the family. Tonight we visited again and received the news. I am very sorry to hear about your loss. Walt was an exceptional soldier and very caring person. He will be missed dearly.

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**Capt Autumn Lorenz** - March 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *May God be with the Ehlers family during this time of grief and sorrow.*

*Illinois*

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March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I saw your husband and farther on the history channel many times I feel like I knew him personally he seemed like a fine man I also served in the big red 1 in Vietnam. please accept my condolences to a great soldier father and husband.i know god will have a special place for him.*

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**joseph graziano** - March 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'll miss you Walt. I kept visiting you because you and Dot taught me so much. Thanks for instructing me on how to treat my son returning from combat. Most of all, thanks for showing me not to hate old enemies. Si Yuus Maase, Jesse*

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**Jesse Perez** - March 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *At ease soldier,, I wish I could have witnessed your reunion with Roland, I feel I know you both by reading your stories and video clips... A mans man and one in a company of heroes.. You're relieved S/SGT, enjoy the light and the peace... The world certainly will miss your presence.. Sincerely, Michael D Burgett*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Dorothy and family, Our hearts are filled with sadness at the loss of your wonderful husband, father and humanitarian. Walt was one of a kind, serving you and the world with unending compassion and joy. It was our pleasure to have been his neighbor and lived in his shadow. I always enjoyed sharing his ice cream too! My heart is with yours! Rita and Jay O'Neill*

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March 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am truly sorry for your loss. The family is in my prayers. John 17:3*

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February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to the entire Ehlers family during this most difficult time. Please know, God is near to those that are broken at heart, and those crushed in spirit he saves.*

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February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ I was touched by the humanity of Walter when first viewing the D-Day docs in '94 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the event. He feelings really penetrated me and I still remember him with respect and gratitude.

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**Paul LeBlanc** - February 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm very sorry for your loss. May the "God of all comfort" bring you peace during this troubling time.

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February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to the Ehlers Family. I'm very sorry for your loss. May the God of all comfort comfort you through the Scriptures during these sad times.(James 4:8) And, may the Scriptural hope of everlasting life sustain you. (John 17:3)

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February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to hear of the passing of Walter. Psalms 55:22.Florida

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February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Ehlers family: Thank you for sharing your dear loved one with the world, we are sorry for the loss. Trust in God and he will help you to endure and find comfort and peace.*

*Chicago*

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February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *God bless you, Mr. Ehlers. Thank you for your service*

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**Jane Dowling** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am sorry for your loss, may the family find comfort by drawing close to God. James 4:8*

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**A** - February 27, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *we thank you for your service to us and our country*

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. May our creator be with you now, and in the future. Matthew5:4.

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Soon God promises that he will eliminate all wars and such tragedies. (Psalms 46:9) My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this difficult time.

*Indiana*

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ To Mr. Ehlers, truly sorry for your loss. May God give comfort. John 3:16

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to the family of Walter Ehlers. I pray that you know that God will make you firm and He will make you strong. 1Peter 5:10

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**N. Jordan** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ I stumbled upon this obituary, with no knowledge of Walter or his life, but I am grateful I did because his character is well worth writing and reading about. I hope to live a life that is influenced by his actions on that day and throughout the war. I can not fathom the challenges faced, but his courage and perseverance can spur each of us on when under overwhelming circumstances.

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**B R** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Soon death will be no more.

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Dear S/Sgt Ehlers. You will be reunited with your brother in heaven and all the other members of the Greatest Generation. Sincerest condolences to your family. Bob Kohler S/Sgt. U.S. Army Okinawa - Korea Era PS: The picture is my way of saying thank you for your service.

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**Bob Kohler** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I'm sorry for your loss may God help you in times of distress. - Ecclesiastes 5:8, 9

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ Thank you for all you did...you are a true American hero!

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**Richard Plummer** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *The loss of a loved one can be hard. Please have comfort in God 's love. 1 Cor. 15:26*

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *The word "hero" is bandied about nowadays so frequently often describing much less than heroic acts. Sgt. Ehlers was the best of our country and we must never allow him to be forgotten because he reminds us what a real hero is. Condolences to his family in this loss.*

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**Mary Melcher** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Our Father in the heavens, may your name be sanctified. Let your kingdom come. Let your will take place, as in heaven, also upon earth" (Matthew 6:9,10). May we all see the day when this promise is fulfilled and see our loved ones again.*

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *may GOD ALMIGHTY comfort the family,soon there will be no need for warfare,God has promised us that under his kingdom arrangement no one will learn war any more.isa.2:4 please accept my sincere condolence...*

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am so sorry for the loss of yet another one who didn't think he was a hero. RIP.*

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**a grateful admirer** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sympathy to the Ehlers family at this time of sorrow.*

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the family, I am so sorry for your loss and offer my sympathy. May you find comfort in what God promises at Micah 4:3,4 that soon the earth will be at peace, war will be no more and no one will make us afraid. May you continue to rely upon God during this difficult time.*

*Michigan*

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February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I think that you would be hard pressed , to find a better man. very sorry for your loss.*

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**Gary Parsons** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ I met Walter and his daughter at O'Hare field a few years back, I'm a Chicago Police Officer, and had the pleasure of their company for a hour or so. What a wonderful man, I was truly a honor. My prayers are with his family. RIP Walter.

James Riley - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Rest Walter, until you hear at dawn, the low, clear reveille of God. Thank you for your service to this nation.

Harry Simpson - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ God has taken another true hero from the greatest generation. He joins his fellow soldiers at peace with God forever. Dave S. (Peoria , Illinois)

February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Ehlers family as we remember this true American hero.

Mark Carr - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ rip

michelle plakas-kaiser - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ We are never prepared for a death of a loved one it is the hardest things we can go though so please find comfort in knowing sickness, pain and death will one day be no more for this has been promised to us. With my deepest condolences for your loss.

February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ May you find comfort and treasure the memories of your loved one. I send my sincere condolences.(Romans15:4)

**Pat** - February 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ thank you for what you and your brother did for all of us now be at peace with your brother.

**christopher oakes** - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ It was my honor to have known Walt Ehlers and to play a small part in the dedications of the Ehlers Center in the Buena Park, the Dedication of the Memorial Wall in the back and the dedication of the patio to his brother, Roland. He was loved by all he met and that knew him. He will be greatly missed.John Muller, Post CommanderVFW Post 8954Buena Park, Ca.

February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you very much for your service to our country.John E. Johnson SCPO USN (Ret).

**John Johnson** - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WE

“ *Walter Ehlers is my 2nd cousin and we share the same name. We get many phone calls, each one telling us that he is a real hero. The last phone call was 2 weeks ago after the lady had purchased the Medal of Honor postage stamps. We are proud of him and thank him for his bravery at Normandy. Sympathy to his family, he & his brother, Roland, are real heros who loved this great country.*

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**Walter Ehlers** - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thank you*

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February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the Family and Friends,My condolences on the death of your loved one. May you find some comfort in the strength of our loving God who really cares about you during this most difficult time.*

*Clinton, Maryland*

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February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I am sorry for your loss. I hope you can find comfort in the words written at (Jeremiah 29:11,12)

Florida

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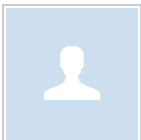
February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the family of Walter Ehlers. May the God who supplies endurance and comfort be with you in the days ahead- Romans 15:5. E.D. Park Forest, IL.

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February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I would like to give my condolences to the family. Sorry for your loss. -Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6

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February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Thank you for your service to our country ,Without Men like you ,we wouldn't have the freedoms today, that so many take for granted .

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**Jeff Davis** - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *May the family and friends find strength from the fond memories of Mr Ehlers. There is also the Almighty God of comfort who want us to draw close to Him at times like these.*

February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Soon death will be no more*

February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *My Hero*

February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *May the God of all comfort be with family and loved ones. (1 Cor. 1:3 & 4)*

**Stacy** - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thank you for your service Sir.*

**Matthew George** - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Thank you Sir for all you did for this Country. You truly were a hero. May the LORD comfort those you leave behind.*

**David Nielsen** - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ Thank You Sir thank you so much for your bravery. Alfred K.

Alfred Kukitz - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ God Speed Mr. Ehlers. Our nation will forever be indebted to you and your family.

Grateful Citizen - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ I remember his interviews on the History Channel he truly was a great man.

Paul Cataldo - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Our young people need to know that these are the men that they should look up to & emulate and not spoiled & overpaid sports & entertainment stars. This is what a real man is, a man of honor & someone his family is proud of. Thank you for your bravery & your service to our country. Many know freedom because of unselfish men like you. Now you go on to be with your brother & comrades in arms who never made it home. A grateful American

February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Than you sir. You truly were a hero to us.

Dan A - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PR

“ Thank you Walter for protecting all of us all those years ago. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Ehlers family & friends.

Patti R - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VH

“ The family and friends of Mr Ehlers have my deepest sympathy for your loss. Mr. Ehlers displayed great courage during his time as a soldier. Isaiah 2:4 The family has my deepest sympathy.

vh - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ Condolences to the Ehlers Family for a man who fought the fine fight and now he rests to live in a world without war (Psalms 46:9), but of everlasting peace

February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Class act man, came home and lived his life respectfully, asked for nothing and wanted nothing. God rest you and your brother who didn't come back.

dennis kavanagh - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to the family, during this difficult time. God assures us that he will cause wars to end and he will restore peace on earth. Psalms 46:9

February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RW

*“ I saw this gentleman on television, recounting his combat experiences, and I was deeply impressed. Mr. Ehlers is the epitome of what we call "The Greatest Generation". I thank you sir, for your service, and to your family I offer my most sincere condolences.*

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**Robert Wydra** - February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM



*“ Men such as Walter Ehlers will always be my heroes.*

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February 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GC

*“ Thank you for your service to our nation. You sir are the greatest of a greatest generation. I am honored to leave a thank you and read up on what is published about your service and life. May you rest in peace.*

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**greatful citizen** - February 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BP

*“ My 3 year old son had the pleasure of shaking your hand at Medal of Honor Day at Arlington Park a few years back. In 70 years he will be able to tell his grandchildren he met one of the greatest heroes of our his generation. Rest in peace.*

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**Brian Pedersen** - February 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *Walt: I love you for your service to our country during its greatest hour of danger. You were always a friend and a "regular guy" despite your fame. I will miss you, but you're now with Roland and that heavenly Band Of Brothers of the Greatest Generation. God bless you for your heroism and rest in peace. You were always the Christian soldier you promised your Mother you would be.*

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**Stan Wolcott** - February 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Rest in Peace*

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**Scott Chamberland** - February 24, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ *Thank you for fighting for our freedom with such courage and resolve. My nephew will be serving as part of your honor guard and we are so proud that he will be serving a hero in the truest sense of the word.*

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**Murline Neisz** - February 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM