

ANIMAL DEN OCCASIONAL BULLETIN #12, 19 MARCH 2012  
A VETERAN'S LAST LETTER

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Sent: 3/19/2013 11:15:36 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time

Subj: A Veterans Last Letter

To All Animals:

Hope all of you are well and beginning your spring thaw. I trust you are talking amongst yourselves and keep up your contacts. I'm a poor pass for doing bulletins these days.

I hope all of you will read the below item and give it consideration. If we remember our own time in Nam, we ought to remember that that war wasn't what it was cracked up to be; some of us learned that we could never again place full trust in our great leaders. It has pained me all these years since 2003 to see the country repeating its errors of old, reflecting that national amnesia that Americans are so often said to have, whereby we learn absolutely nothing from our experiences and our mistakes. Give this article a considered reading instead of a knee-jerk negative reaction. In view of Nam and the Middle East, ask yourselves what kind of country you want yours to be, and just how many generations of good young American men must be sent to the slaughters of politicians' making.

Joe

From TRUTHDIG, Digging Beneath the Headlines

19 March 2013

The Last Letter

A Message to George W. Bush and Dick Cheney From a Dying Veteran

To: George W. Bush and Dick Cheney

From: Tomas Young

I write this letter on the 10th anniversary of the Iraq War on behalf of my fellow Iraq War veterans. I write this letter on behalf of the 4,488 soldiers and Marines who died in Iraq. I write this letter on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of veterans who have been wounded and on behalf of those whose wounds, physical and psychological, have destroyed their lives. I am one of those gravely wounded. I was paralyzed in an insurgent ambush in 2004 in Sadr City. My life is coming to an end. I am living under hospice care.

I write this letter on behalf of husbands and wives who have lost spouses, on behalf of children who have lost a parent, on behalf of the fathers and mothers who have lost sons and daughters and on behalf of those who care for the many thousands of my fellow veterans who have brain injuries. I write this letter on behalf of those veterans whose trauma and self-revulsion for what they have witnessed, endured and done in Iraq have led to suicide and on behalf of the active-duty soldiers and Marines who commit, on average, a suicide a day. I write this letter on behalf of the some 1 million Iraqi dead and on behalf of the countless Iraqi wounded. I write this letter on behalf of us all—the human detritus your war has left behind, those who will spend their lives in unending pain and grief.

You may evade justice but in our eyes you are each guilty of egregious war crimes, of plunder and, finally, of murder, including the murder of thousands of young Americans—my fellow veterans—whose future you stole.

I write this letter, my last letter, to you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney. I write not because I think you grasp the terrible human and moral consequences of your lies, manipulation and thirst for wealth and power. I write this letter because, before my own death, I want to make it clear that I, and hundreds of thousands of my fellow veterans, along with

millions of my fellow citizens, along with hundreds of millions more in Iraq and the Middle East, know fully who you are and what you have done. You may evade justice but in our eyes you are each guilty of egregious war crimes, of plunder and, finally, of murder, including the murder of thousands of young Americansâ€”my fellow veteransâ€”whose future you stole.

Your positions of authority, your millions of dollars of personal wealth, your public relations consultants, your privilege and your power cannot mask the hollowness of your character. You sent us to fight and die in Iraq after you, Mr. Cheney, dodged the draft in Vietnam, and you, Mr. Bush, went AWOL from your National Guard unit. Your cowardice and selfishness were established decades ago. You were not willing to risk yourselves for our nation but you sent hundreds of thousands of young men and women to be sacrificed in a senseless war with no more thought than it takes to put out the garbage.

I joined the Army two days after the 9/11 attacks. I joined the Army because our country had been attacked. I wanted to strike back at those who had killed some 3,000 of my fellow citizens. I did not join the Army to go to Iraq, a country that had no part in the September 2001 attacks and did not pose a threat to its neighbors, much less to the United States. I did not join the Army to â€œliberateâ€”Iraqis or to shut down mythical weapons-of-mass-destruction facilities or to implant what you cynically called â€œdemocracyâ€”in Baghdad and the Middle East. I did not join the Army to rebuild Iraq, which at the time you told us could be paid for by Iraqâ€™s oil revenues. Instead, this war has cost the United States over \$3 trillion. I especially did not join the Army to carry out pre-emptive war. Pre-emptive war is illegal under international law. And as a soldier in Iraq I was, I now know, abetting your idiocy and your crimes. The Iraq War is the largest strategic blunder in U.S. history. It obliterated the balance of power in the Middle East. It installed a corrupt and brutal pro-Iranian government in Baghdad, one cemented in power through the use of torture, death squads and terror. And it has left Iran as the dominant force in the region. On every levelâ€”moral, strategic, military and economicâ€”Iraq was a failure. And it was you, Mr. Bush and Mr. Cheney, who started this war. It is you who should pay the consequences.

I would not be writing this letter if I had been wounded fighting in Afghanistan against those forces that carried out the attacks of 9/11. Had I been wounded there I would still be miserable because of my physical deterioration and imminent death, but I would at least have the comfort of knowing that my injuries were a consequence of my own decision to defend the country I love. I would not have to lie in my bed, my body filled with painkillers, my life ebbing away, and deal with the fact that hundreds of thousands of human beings, including children, including myself, were sacrificed by you for little more than the greed of oil companies, for your alliance with the oil sheiks in Saudi Arabia, and your insane visions of empire.

I have, like many other disabled veterans, suffered from the inadequate and often inept care provided by the Veterans Administration. I have, like many other disabled veterans, come to realize that our mental and physical wounds are of no interest to you, perhaps of no interest to any politician. We were used. We were betrayed. And we have been abandoned. You, Mr. Bush, make much pretense of being a Christian. But isnâ€™t lying a sin? Isnâ€™t murder a sin? Arenâ€™t theft and selfish ambition sins? I am not a Christian. But I believe in the Christian ideal. I believe that what you do to the least of your brothers you finally do to yourself, to your own soul.

My day of reckoning is upon me. Yours will come. I hope you will be put on trial. But mostly I hope, for your sakes, that you find the moral courage to face what you have done to me and to many, many others who deserved to live. I hope that before your time on earth ends, as mine is now ending, you will find the strength of character to stand before the American public and the world, and in particular the Iraqi people, and beg for forgiveness.

See at: [http://www.truthdig.com/dig/item/the\\_last\\_letter\\_20130318/](http://www.truthdig.com/dig/item/the_last_letter_20130318/)

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From: g\_pagaminglasvegas@cox.net  
To: Hitemor@aol.com  
Sent: 3/20/2013 8:27:05 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
Subj: Re: A Veterans Last Letter

Joe,

Really good to hear from you. In the article from Tomas Young, I believe truer words were never put down on paper before. Most people just do not understand the damage done to these young men and women as do some of us. Why does it always come down to the political and financial gain of so few? Well his letter pretty much says it all! Today's Wars, as was Nam, are never what we think they are or led to believe they are for, just more sheep led to the slaughter.

Please stay in touch, Ric

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