

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Gone but in my heart forever!

Current mood:  sad

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A little over 3 years ago I woke to a local radio show on my clock radio. It was a young local Marine who was on R&R for a little bit of time. He was about the same age as my son. He talked about how he was having his mother send more and more stuff because some of his buddies didn't get any mail or packages. Instead of getting up for work on time I listened to his story. He was strong in his words and convictions about his guys. After the program I was touched in my heart. What if I were unable to send my own son things from home for whatever reason. Would someone step in and send him love from home. So I called the radio host who I knew personally, yeah I live in a very small town, and asked him if he knew of any organizations that adopted military personnel. He didn't know of any so I went to the good old internet. One organization stood out of the many called Soldiers' Angels. I liked the name so I clicked on it and began to read the exact same scenario. A mom of a soldier was sending extra to her sons unit because some got nothing. It seemed as tho it was meant to be, a message was sent to me. I adopted my first soldier, Smitty. It was so rewarding that when Smitty's tour was over I adopted another, Marshall, who is still my adoptee and now great friend. Well I have adopted now 12 over the last 3 years. Love it! It has changed the whole direction of my life. REALLY! When I got injured on the job as an Occupational Therapist the only thing that kept me sane were my guys! I had purpose and still do, now I'm active with Soldiers' Angels events where we get the message of Troop Support out to the public, I stand the flag line with the patriot guard for the Fallen Hero's, I welcome them home with my hand-made banner at the airport, I sit at a booth all day to earn enough for another care package, yes on my pain meds, but shhhhh! And this fall I plan to start my degree in Counseling so I can work with those coming home from this war! Yes I will work for the VA one day soon! Why am I telling you all this? Today as I sat here talking to Marshall via email, I heard the newscaster announce a local young Marine died today in Iraq. Yes it was the same young MAN that told his story on the radio and without meeting me ever; he forever changed my life for the better! He started good ripples that will last as long as I live and even beyond that because my son is learning that to give back to our military is to give back for our freedom and that freedom is never been and never will be free! My heart goes out to the Stokes family in Cali. Thank You SEAN STOKES for starting me on a path of being a better person and a better American! God bless you and keep you! You are my Angel.

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