

GOOD AFTERNOON, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF CORPORAL JASON DUNHAM, OFFICERS AND MEN OF 3RD BN, 7TH MARINES, AND MY BROTHERS - KILO COMPANY. IT IS AN INDESCRIBABLE HONOR TO SPEAK HERE TODAY, AND FOR THAT, I HAVE DEB DUNHAM TO THANK.

IN EARLY JUNE OF THIS PAST YEAR, A FEW OF US GATHERED IN THE SMALL TOWN OF SCIO, NEW YORK TO DEDICATE JASON'S HOMETOWN POST OFFICE TO HIS MEMORY. I WAS ASKED TO SPEAK AT THAT CEREMONY – ON BEHALF OF KILO COMPANY AND THOSE WHO KNEW JASON AS A MARINE – AND ASSEMBLED THERE THAT MORNING WERE THE DUNHAM FAMILY, CHILDREN FROM SCIO CENTRAL SCHOOL, AND THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF SCIO –TO WHOM JASON IS NOW A HERO **AND** A LEGEND.

BUT ON THAT MORNING I DID NOT SPEAK TO THOSE ASSEMBLED THERE AT SCIO'S TINY POST OFFICE. I SPOKE INSTEAD TO CORPORAL DUNHAM. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT I HAD WITNESSED HIS APPOINTMENT – TO THE POSITION OF RESPECTED AND TRUSTED LEADER – A TITLE WHICH I BELIEVE CANNOT BE BESTOWED UPON ONE BY HIS SENIORS, BUT ONLY HIS SUBORDINATES .

I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT I REALIZED THIS AT THAT MOMENT, LATE ON THE NIGHT OF 13 APRIL, IN WHICH I WITNESSED HIS TWO FIRETEAM LEADERS, LCPL HAMPTON AND LCPL CARBAJAL, BRING HIM THAT PLATE OF HOT CHOW ON A CARDBOARD TRAY BECAUSE HE WAS TOO BUSY TAKING CARE OF HIS SQUAD TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.

I ALSO EXPLAINED TO CPL DUNHAM THAT, FOLLOWING THE SACRIFICE OF HIS LIFE FOR TWO OF HIS BROTHERS, I HAD COME TO REALIZE THAT HE EPITOMIZED THE VERY **PRINCIPLES** THAT I BELIEVE IN MOST AS A MARINE:

LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE
SELF-SACRIFICE FOR THE GREATER GOOD, AND
ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

ON THAT MORNING, I SPOKE TO MY DEAD SQUAD LEADER, BUT THIS AFTERNOON, I WILL SPEAK TO SOMEONE ELSE. NEARLY 3 YEARS AGO CORPORAL DUNHAM **GAVE HIS VERY LIFE** SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE. SO IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT TODAY I SPEAK TO THE LIVING.

FIRST, TO THE DUNHAMS, FOR YOURS HAS BEEN THE HEAVIEST BURDEN - THE SACRIFICE OF YOUR SON. BUT THAT SACRIFICE HAS **NOT** BEEN IN VAIN; IT HAS **BEEN** FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF CITIZEN AND MARINE ALIKE.
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF ALL WHO HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY

YOUR SON'S STRENGTH
YOUR SON'S LOVE, AND
YOUR SON'S EXAMPLE.

AND IT HAS ALSO BEEN TO THE BETTERMENT OF ALL WHO HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY **YOUR STRENGTH** IN THE FACE OF HIS SACRIFICE.

SO, ON BEHALF OF **KILO COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINES**, AND ALL WHO HAVE EVER WORN THE CLOTH OF OUR NATION - THANK YOU.

THANK YOU FOR JASON – HAVING KNOWN HIM HAS MADE US ALL BETTER CITIZENS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SACRIFICE, AND
THANK YOU FOR THE **INSPIRATION** THAT THIS HAS BROUGHT TO US ALL.

YOURS HAS **INDEED** BEEN THE GREATEST BURDEN, YET YOU HAVE BORN IT LIKE TRUE AMERICANS.

NEXT, TO CPL HAMPTON AND CPL MILLER; I HAVE A SIMPLE MESSAGE FOR YOU BOTH. AND I AM BORROWING FROM ONE OF MY PERSONAL HEROES - GYSGT ADAM WALKER (**K3B**) - AS FOLLOWS:

ALL THAT WE HAVE...
HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US.

WHAT WE DO...
WITH WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN...
IS HOW WE HONOR...
THOSE WHO GAVE.

NEXT, TO ALL HERE TODAY WHO HAVE KNOWN JASON DUNHAM:

IT IS TIME TO MOVE FORWARD NOW WITH OUR LIVES:
TIME TO FOCUS ON THE LIVING, ON OUR CHILDREN, AND ON OUR NATION'S FUTURE.
TIME TO FOCUS ON OUR DUTIES AS CITIZENS AND MARINES.

WE HAVE A VERY LIMITED TIME ON THIS EARTH - A LIMITED TIME TO LIVE, A LIMITED TIME TO LOVE, AND A LIMITED TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SO LET US KEEP **JASON DUNHAM'S** MEMORY IN OUR THOUGHTS AS WE MOVE FORWARD. **JASON** LIVED THE LIFE THAT HE HAD TO ITS FULLEST. HE LOVED HIS FAMILY, HE LOVED HIS BROTHERS, AND IN THE END, HE HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE IN ALL OF OUR LIVES. SO HE HAS PUT THE CHALLENGE TO US ALL:

HOW WILL WE LIVE?
HOW WILL WE **SHOW** OUR LOVE?
HOW WILL **WE** MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

AND LASTLY, TO MY BROTHERS - TO KILO:

AS WE REMEMBER CPL DUNHAM:

LET US NOT BE SAD, BUT RATHER LET US REJOICE IN OUR **BROTHERHOOD** AND IN THE BLESSING OF HAVING FOUGHT ALONGSIDE MEN OF SUCH NOBILITY, HONOR, AND SOLDIERLY VIRTUE.

FOR IT IS OUR **SACRED HONOR**, FOR HAVING SERVED WITH MEN SUCH AS THIS.

AND WHEN WE ONCE AGAIN GO ON PATROL IN SEARCH OF OUR NATIONS ENEMIES...

WHEN WE ONCE AGAIN STEP INTO THE BREACH...

WHEN WE ONCE AGAIN COME FACE-TO-FACE WITH **OUR FOE**....

LET US DO AS CPL DUNHAM WOULD HAVE US DO...

AND PUT **HEADS ON PIKES!**