

December 5, 2009

Dear Family & Friends,

The Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund, Inc. was founded on October 23, 2003 during our son, SPC David A. Campbell's deployment to Iraq. He was a proud paratrooper who served with the 82nd Airborne, 325th Battalion, 2nd ID in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Dave enlisted in the Army in November 2001 and began his training in Fort Bragg, NC and Fort Benning, GA in January 2002. Dave was deployed to the Gulf on his father's birthday and headed into Baghdad in March. He also helped Katrina victims and found the devastation very troubling here at home. He was with the Maryland National Guard's Alpha Company 175th Infantry Division when he lost his life. He was being promoted to SGT a promotion he turned down several times during his service overseas. He felt he would lose his comradery with his fellow soldiers. He was our soldier and we are very proud of his commitment and dedication to serving our country in helping guarantee that we can continue living our lives in Freedom.

It was extremely difficult for us having our youngest son fighting in a land far away as he and his comrades put their lives in harms way on a moment by moment basis. Although we have military parents and grandparents this was our first experience as parents of a military child. We did not hear from him for eight weeks and when he did finally have the ability to call home, we would have a minute or two to hear his voice. We waited anxiously for the next call home. We needed to hear that he was okay; every second of hearing his voice brought us so much joy even though our days and nights were filled with fear. We worried silently not wanting to share our worries of that unspeakable and frightening knock that may come on our door. It is so difficult for any family having military service members and for the parents who have no direct link to the military life as spouses do, there really is no one to reach out to and I learned this early on during special luncheons for parents of military children. We are and were totally alone in our fears.

During our son's deployment there was not much sleep in our home, we watched the media 24/7 and watched as photos of young men and women were displayed across the TV screen, another loss another casualty and another family was having to face the pain of losing their loved one. In October 2003 as David, Sr. and I spoke we felt saddened by the many children who were losing their Daddies and Mommies and decided to try to raise some funds to help one or two children attend College. We managed to have our first walk-a-thon with the wonderful support of our family and friends and the Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund was founded and continues today to help surviving children, spouses and disabled veterans and their families with financial assistance and college grants. Because of my son's commitment to serve in our Armed Forces we have provided more than \$534,000.00 in support to these well-deserving children and their families.

On November 4, 2003 our son's unit was hit by a road side bomb, they lost Sgt Francisco Martinez and SPC Gregory Stovall suffered from burns and the loss of two of his fingers. It was a horrible and tragic day for the 82nd and all the families. During Stovall's stay in Walter Reed I and some of my close family and friends had the opportunity to treat Stovall and a young double amputee, 101st Airborne soldier, PFC Perez out for the day to enjoy football and food on large screen TV's at a sports bar in Germantown. I will never forget that day, two young soldiers badly wounded who met each other for the very first time. Two strong, dedicated and passionate soldiers who only wanted to return to their comrades to complete their duties overseas in that land far, far away. I listened behind them, tears streaming down my face to their battles and fought back more tears as I learned that the morning Stovall and Martinez were hit their Captain had asked for two soldiers to take the place of my son and his comrade that day as they needed a rest from the runs they were making sometimes several times a day. I feel blessed that our son had an Angel watching over him that day, but saddened for the other two soldiers and their mothers loss. SPC Stovall's mother asked to speak with me to thank me for taking her son out for the day and I realized even more how much these service members and their families deserve our support and appreciation for their service.

One never knows what life will bring our way. Only God knows our future and if it weren't for the love of Him, my trust and belief in his love and glory I still don't know if I myself could carry on. After suffering the most tragic loss of all, the loss of my child, I found a tremendous amount of help in J.C. Brumfield's "Comfort for Troubled Christians," which we are sharing with other individuals and families suffering from losses. This small pocket sized book of only 64 pages in length gave me so much comfort in knowing that He is here with us during our most troubling times and it is only through Him that we can survive our darkest days in life. I would like to share a copy of "Comfort for Troubled Christians" for those that request one in the hopes others can get through the sorrow and pain of our lives.

Our son went through some hardships as he grew into the man he became (always Little Dave to us) as we all do, but he managed to put a smile on so many faces no matter what and brought so much energy to any situation. We were all so blessed to have Dave in our lives, he had so much love inside of him even with his tough exterior you could see through him, he had the love of his parents, his brothers, his grandparents, aunts, uncles, nephews and niece, and many, many cousins and friends and he was my forever protector. He had a party now and then, which would of course get him into trouble at times, but he loved to have fun, laugh and kid around. Even as I shed rivers of tears I know that my son is in a better place. He is with the Lord and other loved ones and I look forward to his welcoming party when I myself arrive. He is our Angel Soldier now and is standing watch over us from above. The tremendous amount of pain and loss that I feel every day is something no parent should ever have to go through, but I know it is God's will and it is only with his love and comfort that I am guided to continue on and help others who have suffered a loss and will continue to do so because of and in honor and loving memory of my wonderful son, SPC David A. Campbell, Jr.

We are so very grateful for the love and support of all our family and friends, please know that there is not a day that has gone by that I haven't thanked God for you. In lieu of sending individual thank you cards to those that have sent flowers and cards I had hoped to share a little about our son and his impact on children and spouses of fallen service members and disabled veterans in this letter. He is honored and remembered every day a visit to our website is made and we hope to make him proud.

We thank all that have sent flowers or cards and for those that have contributed to our son's Memorial Fund, please accept our apologies for the delay in formally acknowledging receipt. Your kindness has contributed towards a total memorial fund in the amount of \$2,510.00 as of December 4, 2009. The recipient(s) that receives assistance from your contribution will be carefully chosen and will be restricted to the 82nd Airborne and Maryland National Guard.

Yesterday, December 4th was our son's 30th birthday and I encourage you to find a way to celebrate his life and the lives of all that have touched us so.

May the peace and warmth of our Lord be with you and those you love this Holiday season.

God Bless,

Rebecca Campbell

Rebecca (Becky) Campbell, Founder/CEO
In Honor and Loving Memory of My Son, SPC David A. Campbell, Jr
Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 3968
Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3968
(301) 685-3421 or (866) 96-CFSRF
www.cfsrf.org

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