

Letter: Fallen soldier's family urges others to enjoy company of loved ones

Staff Reports

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Recently, our son, Lt. Robert "Bart" Fletcher, was taken from us in what seemed to be a senseless but tragic murder while in the line of duty as an executive officer in the Army in Fort Hood, Texas. I have described to many that it feels like I have taken a bittersweet pill. The bitter is obvious, as no words can explain the pain of burying a child, brother, lover or deeply devoted friend. The sweet is the tsunami of love, compassion and comfort that has poured forth.

First, we thank, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Patriotic Guard for their unyielding will to "be there" for their comrade. To the U.S. Army, we salute you in your professionalism, and the genuine compassion and sacrifice you made to honor Bart and all that he stood for in his service and dream of making a difference in this world.

We truly regard you as family.

To the news media, we appreciate and respect the effort you took to graciously reveal the essence of this story that helped our community heal instead of hate. For that you have allowed Bart to hold high the honor he so deserves. To all those who "knew" Bart but never met him, remember the story that gives you the strength not only to heal yourself, but help children see their own self worth.

Finally, we are deeply grateful to our caring and compassionate community that has allowed us to move forward knowing all is and will be well. Let us keep Bart's legacy alive by holding dear what he professed: "Live in the present. Take advantage of the time you have with your family, friends and loved ones. Enjoy their company and take a second to remember all that is good in your lives."

If you want to continue the legacy of Bart's mission in helping soldiers and their families, visit www.peacefulparenting.net and click "Lt. Robert B. Fletcher Memorial Fund."

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