

Subject: FROM STEVE PRESTON-- OPEN LETTER TO PHONIES AND WANNABES

To: info@pownetwork.org

February 16, 2008

Re.: PHONIES AND WANNABES

Dear Mary~

As you already know, (but for the sake of introducing myself to those who don't), I am the brother of CMSgt. James A. Preston-- USAF-- who was Loadmaster aboard an AC-47D gunship that was lost along with a crew of 7 other Americans and 2 South Vietnamese ARVNs on 16 May 1966.

It was heart-wrenching enough to lose a brother who was very dear to all of our family. And that heartbreak continues to this day.

But to see the revelation of the massive and widespread degree about the staggering number of individuals who falsely claim and / or exaggerate their military involvement, whether during Vietnam or otherwise, when actually they did NOT go through the "hell on earth" that our legitimate men endured, is sickening to say the least.

The men who served over there, my brother included, went willingly in order to carry out the mission that they were assigned to-- namely to help the South Vietnamese achieve and maintain their independence as a free country. Sadly, that mission was prematurely aborted by our own government and the rest is a sad truth within the pages of our American military history.

It would be relatively easy to overlook and pity many of the "false heroes" due to their obvious mental and emotional instability for which I pray that they will eventually find the strength to seek out professional counseling through whatever channels are able to help them. But others, whom I have known personally and placed so much confidence and admiration in-- namely Mrs. Fire Joyner and Mr. Joey Pierce of Georgia-- it was unbelievable and shocking to learn of their trail of deceit which my wife Amanda and I have only recently learned of, but which has apparently been going on for years.

It still eludes me to comprehend what takes place in the minds and hearts of such people who are so void of a conscience that they can parade themselves as a "war hero" along with claims of having endured the agonies of war and captivity while serving in ANY branch of our Armed Forces-- IF they even served at all.

Mary, because of your many years of experience with dealing with such people, you know their mentality much better than I do, and I'm eternally grateful that you and other national military and POW organizations are exposing them for what they are-- liars with a capital L !!

If my brother (or any other missing serviceman) were to be found alive in captivity TODAY, I'd like to ask some of these "pretenders" if they would be willing to exchange places with them so that the legitimate ones could return home to their families and the quiet, peaceful, honest lives that were taken away from them so many years ago.

It is not my desire to see any of these Phonies and Wannabes hurt or mercilessly punished, but I do wish for them to be publicly exposed and placed in a position where they have no choice but to come face-to-face with themselves and the countless people that they have so selfishly deceived. Not only do they owe an apology to the families of the men who are legitimately missing.... but it's the only way that they will ever be able to fill the empty void in their lives that compels them to commit such deceitful acts.

That would be they ONLY way they could really pay due respect to all the men and women who suffered (and continue to suffer) the horrors of combat and the torture of captivity. There is no way possible to "honor" their alleged military comrades, our nations POWs... or God our Creator through the DISHONOR of lies and false glory with which they daily use as a smokescreen in order to exalt themselves.

I know it isn't possible, but I honestly wish that every one of these "put-ons" could experience just one day in my Mother and Dad's shoes... the sleepless nights that they endured due to the uncertainty of James' fate... the memories of James' presence in our family... the void that was left by his absence... and the never-ending WORRY due to their years of wondering about they type of pain and suffering that he might be enduring.

I also wish they could be carried back in time in order to witness the heartache of the wives who saw their husbands for the last time on the day they departed to go and fight in that war.

I wish they could feel what it was like for James' children to grow up without a father due to the fact that he received his orders while they were still so young that they have very little recollection of him whatsoever.

Regardless of the mental, emotional, psychological, and spiritual problems that these imposters have-- and regardless of the forums that they utilize and the audiences before whom they parade themselves-- We will ALL stand before the same Righteous Judge-- God, our Creator and His son, Jesus Christ while we will be required to give an account for every deed done in this life, whether it has been of Good or Evil.

It would benefit each and every one of these disturbed individuals to be reminded of the following biblical scripture of Matthew 6: 1-4 which instructs as follows:

"Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in Heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."

In closing, I'd like to express the following, heartfelt words to all imposters who parade yourselves before your fellow man. Just remember that you will give an account for it one day. If you do somehow manage to get away with your charades in this life, you will NOT escape them in the next. You will stand before the same God as ALL of your fellow human beings. Please make your heart right with Him NOW and ask His forgiveness while you still have the opportunity.

If you wish to impress me personally as the brother of a legitimate, missing serviceman, you may do so as follows:

Do not waste your time decorating YOURSELF with medals, patches from elite military groups and special awards that you have supposedly received for your own "heroism and bravery". It's distracting from the tribute that you are paying to my brother and all others who so proudly served. Just simply carry the POW/MIA flag, say a quiet, sincere, reverent prayer for their full accounting, and leave it at that. After all, you are present at these public gatherings to honor THEM rather than yourself-- AREN'T YOU???????? At least you claim to be, so prove it by ceasing to call so much attention to yourself. I can't see your honor toward my brother because I'm blinded by the glare of the fake medals that you wear.

Do not regale me with your tales of narrow escapes and incidents in which your "captivity records" were lost, covered up, or destroyed in fires. Tell me what you are doing NOW-- TODAY-- to help bring my brother home. Dancing and saluting in his honor is fine. But it doesn't bring him home. What ELSE are you doing?

Do not DARE get in my face and challenge me if I ask to see your military records and DD-214 when you make claims of being held in captivity. My wife and I both know the avenues to research your background through the proper governmental channels and national databases. We WILL USE THEM IN ORDER TO CONFIRM YOUR LEGITIMACY. If your claims prove to be false or otherwise unconfirmable, you will be reported to the proper authorities.

Always remember that I am highly suspicious of people who loudly shout, "ARE YOU CALLING ME A LIAR?!" I don't care if you DID somehow manage to "slip through the cracks" of some deep dark secret mission that can't be confirmed through your military records. If you can't confirm your claims through legitimate, governmental sources, I am simply not going to believe you. When you ask me if I'm calling you a liar because I won't take you at your word, then you'd better believe beyond the shadow of a doubt that I AM and will continue to do so for as long as you cannot provide adequate confirmation of your claims.

Finally, and most importantly-- I will pray for you to find the peace in your soul that you are so obviously lacking. You can lie to your fellow man and often get away with it. But you can NOT lie to the God who created you. One day you will stand before Him face-to-face, and I pray that you will somehow make peace with Him-- and with yourself-- before that Day arrives.

Sincerely,

Steve R. Preston
Brother of CMSgt. James A. Preston
USAF-- 4th Air Commando Squadron
Loadmaster aboard AC-47D Flight "Spooky 10"
Lost over Laos-- 15 May 1966
Case inconclusively closed-- 15 May 2000
Arlington National Cemetery

