

August 20, 1020

Letter to My Sons:

First I want to say, "thank you Daniel Love for what you did for your country."

Welcome Home Dan! I can't wait to see you!" I have this hunch there are many stories to be told and some will remain untold as well because you didn't want your family to worry. But know this, when I look into your eyes I will see those stories written in your eyes because I hear it already in your voice, and I know you are now a warrior. I am proud to call you my son.

The details of your service in Iraq are pouring in at this writing. Robert F. McDonnell shared the following about the 300 soldiers from the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment."

"It is a testament to the professionalism and attention to detail of your soldiers and officers that the battalion completed 278 convoy escort missions travelling more than 172,300 miles and transported in excess of 120 million gallons of fuel and 900 thousand short tons of supplies without any injuries, while your teams reacted to 22 enemy attacks from small arms fire, indirect fire and IED detonations."

It is hard to read those words much less imagine accomplishing all that! Job well done Specialist Love.

Of course war changes all of us. It has changed me too. If it didn't than we are not truly human. A warrior has a heart and his heart will always be challenged by what he endures and witnesses. You saw the effects of evil on a whole society. You witnessed what happens inside a God vacuum at the core of a culture that lives by rules that we can't even comprehend.

As Americans it is hard to believe that most of the world does not live inside our safe and happy bubble-land. We are that innocent baby sleeping in a crib naive of the dangerous world it just enter. You and your fellow soldiers have made our world safer and because of the good you have done, the world will hate you more. Twisted mind-sets are hard to comprehend but thankfully that job will be left to others to untangle.

As believers we have a different perspective to this world problem. The curse of sin has totally marred the hearts of man-kind. You saw and experienced this up-close and personal. you understand clearly the effects of this destructive force and the ego centric arrogance that destroys anything and anyone that believes differently. Darkness hates Light and always will.

As your mother it will be difficult to hear the life lessons you really learned during this first 8 months of service for your country but I still want you to talk. I am also asking for God's wisdom, understand and much grace for your students who need to hear your words so they can pass that wisdom to the next generations. If we learn nothing from History then why bother recording or studying it?

I have noticed that when I run from the truth or cover my eyes or turn the TV channel it usually means I have made an idol of my Bubble-Land fantasy world I live in. Who really enjoys hearing bad news? I personally run from what causes pain. I want Washington to fix my problems and I want my good life back. But I have a feeling God is not going to let us have our "good-life" back. The darkness is already dawning over this nation. The Bubble has been burst and that is why we need you here Dan.

We need to hear truth and we need to face truth. So tell us what we don't want to hear and I will pray for grace as you watch the pain level in our eyes or see the blinders close over our hearts. I pray that God will grant you courage to stand for righteousness and truth and not just be a listener to Talk Radio or Talk TV but to continue to be a warrior of action. Our actions as a family reflect that we have heard

the truth. There is an alarm sounding from the Throne of God in Heaven against all wickedness on this earth and our response to that alarm is reflected in how we live.

Thank you son for doing what is impossible apart from God's power in you. Facing the real world head on and being willing to do something positive about changing it. May God give you wisdom in how to shine His Light on the path ahead. And someday soon after this all is over, I hope to read your first of many books.

Love and prayers, Mom

We wrote David Michael to tell him that both Dave and I will now be flying to Virginia to welcome Dan home from Iraq. Below is his note back to me and another funny e-mail I sent him in return...

From: [Love, David Michael](#)

To: [David Love](#)

Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 12:41 PM

Subject: RE: Hi David Michael! Praying for you!

Hi Mom,

Awesome! Tell Dan I said hey, and not to drive his truck like he drove his MRAP in Iraq. I was watching him so he can't make excuses. I should be arriving around September maybe a day earlier or later, coming in through D. and SA. It would be funny if we were on the same flight :)

DM

August 20, 2010

[Mom Love responding to David Michael's Letter]

Dear Mikey,

We are so excited about your upcoming short leave from Iraq.

Your note about Dan's driving put this picture in my head...I can see Dan driving through Lynchburg, VA. I think maybe they should put up warning signs like the following:

"Do not travel this highway during the following hours... Our veteran MRAP driver Daniel Love commutes during these times. He will see any hesitation at a yield on ramp as reason to blow-up your vehicle."

"If you see a black pick-up truck driving on the wrong side of the road just move out of his way and salute him. He is just back from Iraq and sleep walk/driving."

"All local law enforcers, please approach his vehicle with caution. Please do not tail-gate or make sudden waving gesturers."

Mikey, do you think that will cover it?

I think since Dan got used to having a long convoy following him wherever he went he should be the front fire-truck driver for all 4th of July parades and Home-coming events at Liberty U. Another idea is that the Love family could do a convoy family vacation tour each summer and follow Dan and Amy and their kids where-ever Dan wants to go that year. Even if it is only to Roanoke, VA. (I can't imagine that he will want to drive any further than 45 minutes away!)

On the more serious side...I am so proud of Dan. I can't wait to see him and I know you wish you could see him too!

Holly said, we can Skype with Dan when you get home and talk to him in Virginia. He was so glad to hear you are coming home for a break. He wanted so badly to see you now. So you can have a fun conversation with him and we will all listen in and wonder "what in the world they are talking about?" That would be so awesome to listen to those stories.

Seriously: One Last Thing: Thank you David Michael!

Mikey: I have one more thing I want to say to you from a mother's heart.

"Thanks for helping to keep your brother Dan safe."



I know you did far more than you will ever let us know. I also know God set it up so you were in that position to watch over your big brother. Do you know what that did for me as your mother? I don't take any of this for granted. I thank God for the man of courage you are and how you live up to your full name.

I also understand how you see things and that when I say, **"Thank you for what you did,"** you will humbly dismiss it as your duty, because you don't want any of the focus on yourself. But son, God put you in that bunker to give you the honor and privilege of guarding your fellow soldiers and your brother and you were the *"watchman on the wall."*

What an unusual and unique role you played in Dan's life and none of us missed the irony of what you were doing.

Now that Dan is back in the US I hear great relief in your voice. Job well done Mikey and without missing a step you are now watching over other sons and daughters. Most of their moms and dads will never know your name or write you a thank-you note for what you do each long night. But God knows and sees it and so do I. So I am going to thank you for them right now...

"thank you 2 LT Love and may God bless you with keen insight, vision and discernment. May those flying under your intel know that they are especially blessed and protected. May God pour back on you everything you have given and bless you abundantly and may God receive the glory for it all."

I am proud and honored to call you my son.
love Mom