

Gary Sinise Public Service Announcement

I am extremely honored that I was invited to speak to the brave and dedicated Soldiers of our great nation. Today I want to convey just how grateful I am for your service, your sacrifice, and your love of Country. You are deployed all over the world, separated from your families, and often placed in life-threatening situations. You're making sacrifices that most Americans will never fully understand, and I just want you to know how extremely proud I am of you.

I have a specific purpose for addressing each of you today. It is my desire that you persevere, that you stay alive, and that you are able to overcome all of the monumental challenges that are being thrown at you. The difficulties and dangers that you face are so abnormal that they're more than a human being is designed to handle. I am asking each Soldier to get to know your fellow Soldiers and care for each other as you would for a member of your own family. Each Soldier has someone back home that loves and needs that Soldier. They expect that someone will take care of their loved one. That someone may very well be you. Soldiers do not abandon Soldiers. Just as LT Dan had Forrest, we all need that amount of loyalty and encouragement. The doctors could fix the physical scars of LT Dan, but it took loyal and dedicated friends to help heal the emotional wounds.

When family members send their loved ones into harms way to defend this great Nation, they do so with the understanding that leaders will ensure that their family members are honored, respected, and cared for. Your commitment to preserve the freedom that we all enjoy has not gone unnoticed – so I honor you, I admire you, and I salute you.