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Belated veterans day thoughts-Carlos Arendado, and anysoldier.com

My mind hasn't been working with me right otherwise i would have posted this yesterday.

I think so many of us get wrapped up in the rhetoric, in the computer scans and numbers that its hard to imagine the INDIVIDUALS we are dealing with. Individuals like Pat Tillman and his brother Kevin.

Individuals like Alexander Arendondo and his father Carlos.

Each one of these brave people had their own choice to make and they made the choice to join our military, for better or for worse. The least we owe them is to keep them as safe as possible.

How many of us can truly know the depth of emotion in losing a child?

Next thing, the Marines

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Spring '06 BfP Scholars



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ask me if I was Carlos Arredondo. I don't understand why they asking me that, and I don't see my son anywhere. I even ask them, "Are you guys here to recruit some kids?" because I have a second son, a 16-year-old, Brian. And he said, "I'm sorry, I'm coming to notify you that Alexander Arredondo got killed in combat." At that moment, not expecting those words, my world tumbled and I felt my heart go down to the ground and rush up through my throat. I run from my house to the backyard, looking for my mother to tell her what these men were saying. And she run to try to talk to them, while I was trying to call Maine to reach Alex's mother. Brian answer the phone and because I was in tears, all I could say was, "Sorry, I'm sorry. They're telling me your brother got killed." And Brian said, "I know that, I know." "How do you know that?" "Cause the Marines, they're here right now, and when I saw them coming, I know."

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I run back into the house, grab Alex's picture to give it to my mom. Then

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