

## **THE BURDEN**

On February 11, 2013, a young Army Staff Sergeant was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama. He and his men fought off over 400 Tali-Ban at a fire-base in Afghanistan. At the end of the battle, eight men were killed and twenty-two of the fifty-two were wounded. He fought for his men, not for flag or country. Neither is thought of during battle.

Tears welled up in his eyes as he spoke of the men lost and saved. His priority was not only to save his men but also that they were determined to keep the dead out of the hands of the Tali-Ban. That was accomplished...they all came home.

One of my short stories written a while back entitled “Mounds” about me, the Marines, and Vietnam closed with “It's not that I can't forget...It's that I won't forget...I owe them that”. A new generation of Warriors that includes my youngest son, a Combat Assault Marine veteran of two tours in Iraq, understands that now and they won't forget either because they owe those left behind that.

It's a burden we all carry willingly.

**C. V. Egan**

**March 8, 2013**