

## **Randy Brothers**

### **Member of the Donelson / Hermitage Exchange Club**

#### **What the Field of Honor means to me**

In the early morning dawn at the Field of Honor, it was very quiet, and I was experiencing a somber reverent feeling flowing over the field. I was watching our 1,000 flags fly in the breeze and many thoughts were going through my head about our country, those serving, and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

It was then a beautiful elderly couple came up to me who had bought a flag in memory of their son. My role as a member of our Exchange Club was to offer rides to the flags and back via a golf cart for those needing this service. It was then when this elderly couple joined me and begin to share their story about their son who they had lost serving our country. In the quietness of the morning and only the sound of the golf cart moving toward the flag's they begin to share their story with me.

Their son had served in the army for 7 years. He deployed on three different operations during his tenure. The expression of love, the tenderness of the moment, and the tears they both shed as I helped them place their card onto the flag they had purchased was one of the most touching moments I have ever experienced. You see ladies and gentlemen, at that moment our field of Honor had just become personal to them.

As I sat in the golf cart with them, they begin to share the memories of their son with me and I could see the hurt but also feel the joy of the life they had shared together. The father who was a veteran himself spoke of his son with honor and thankfulness that he had served our nation well. They held hands as they placed their tag on the flag and for a few minutes that seemed like hours, they offered no words. I took pictures of them holding the flag, and at that moment, I could feel the genuine love they had for each other and their son.

You see being a member of the Exchange Club and taking part in the Field of Honor is much more to me than placing the flags in the field. It is thanking so many sponsors, individuals, and volunteers who make it possible to give this husband and wife a special moment together to pay tribute to their only son.

I too, pay tribute to my son Brock who served 4 years in the Marine Corp, my nephew Beau who currently is a Navy Seal Team 5 and the memory of Forrest J. Sibley the son of my best friend of 40 years and who lost his life in Afghanistan serving our country.

May we never forget that freedom is not free! I thank God for support from the companies, individuals, volunteers, and yes mostly, to the men and women of our great nation whom each of the flags at the DH Exchange Club Field of Honor represent.

This is what the Field of Honor means to me.

God bless our great nation,

Randy Brothers