

WHAT A RED WARRIOR MEANS TO ME



WHITNEY ECHOLS

**PAST PRESIDENT - RED WARRIORS
VIETNAM ASSOCIATION**

A soldier who has served in, or supported the 1st Battalion 12th Infantry Regiment is known to his fellow soldiers as a "Red Warrior." A Red Warrior is a very special soldier who is dedicated to his duty. He is a comrade to his fellow soldiers, and fulfills his responsibilities as a team member. He is a Professional who respects "Warriors" of all ranks. He makes tremendous sacrifices to fulfill his duties as a soldier. A Red Warrior puts himself first, or last, whatever the mission dictates. He loves his country, respects "Ole Glory" and has chills when she flies in the wind.

A Red Warrior cries when he loses a loved one, and has cried when he lost a comrade...a friend in battle. He shows compassion and understanding toward his fellow Red

Warriors, and offers comfort, encouragement, and friendship when life gets tough. A Red Warrior shows initiative and tries to set the example. He never complains, never quits, and will never give up.

A Red Warrior has a great sense of humor, He tries his best to be a good son, brother, cousin, uncle, husband and father.

Red Warriors are a special breed: compassionate. Enduring, smart, and brave. We are bound to each other for life because of the hardships, sacrifices and battles we fought together. Some gave all...the ultimate sacrifice...and their names are on the wall. We were exposed to trauma, pain, and suffering...some fought bravely until captured...some died in captivity...and some endured

almost seven years as prisoners of war.

A Red Warrior believes in a higher power. I am proud to be called a Red Warrior, and I am blessed to be here with you tonight...my fellow Red Warriors.

God bless all of you.



WHITNEY ECHOLS READ THE ABOVE DURING THE 2008 RED WARRIORS REUNION IN ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

