

An Open Letter to Postmaster General John Potter

Remembering the Peacekeepers

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Twenty-four years ago on a Sunday morning in October America awoke to a tragic event in American History. The Marine Barracks in Lebanon had been blown up by a Terrorist suicide bomber. A four story building was now a pile of rubble and 241 Servicemen (mostly Marines) died in their sleep.

They were sent to a foreign soil, part of a multinational force to restore and keep the peace. They sought neither glory nor fame. Their mission was to attempt to bring peace to a region of the world where peace somehow seems not to be allowed even to this day. They were the first American victims of a suicide terrorist. We now know, tragically again, they are not the last.

I, and many of my fellow Americans, spent that Sunday close to the TV set grasping for any news, shedding emotional tears as the names of the dead rolled across our living rooms TV screens, and wondering why and how this could happen. One of these men happened to be the son of my parent's next door neighbor, so this event struck closer to home for me.

He was a Navy Corpsman attached to the Marines. He too died in his sleep that Sunday morning in October of 1983 a young 22 years of age. Their tragic loss of life should never be forgotten nor should their noble cause. "Blessed are the Peacekeepers for they shall be called the children of God".

Mr. Potter through the years many have tried to have a stamp issued to show remembrance and to honor our values and effort. It is within your power to influence the "Citizens Advisory Committee" and to make this stamp become a reality. I do not know what it should look like. I only know that it should happen.

The Postal Service could include such a stamp as part of a Commemorative series honoring American Sacrifice from Valley Forge to Iraq. It is an idea whose time has come.

Please "Do the Right Thing."