

Dear Patriotic American,

My name is Jessy Rutter. I thank you for the opportunity to meet you. I'm from the small town of Three Springs in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. I'm a Sergeant in the Army (recently promoted from Specialist). I'm 21 years old and have been in the Army for about 3 years. I serve with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 167th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 287th Sustainment Brigade on a small camp in the Babylon Province of Iraq, about 50 miles south of Baghdad, with an area of operations that ranges between Kuwait and northern Baghdad. Our primary mission as a battalion is to provide logistics support and security platforms for the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command. We've been in country now for about 10 months, scheduled to come home in October.

Today I received 40 plus letters and cards from you and other Americans that I have never met, living all across the United States, thanking me for serving in our armed forces. Its times like today when I can't even begin to measure how proud I am to have the honor and privilege to serve our nation.

I'm not too up to date on what the news back home reports, but 2009 has been a very important year for the nation of Iraq. The goals that we have committed to accomplishing are finally being met. The government of Iraq assumed full authority over their country as of 01 January, and full responsibility of security in all Iraqi cities as of 01 June. I have the pleasure of working with Iraqi civilians on a regular basis, and most are very thankful for the freedom that we have brought to their country. We and our Iraqi partners are stepping further and further across the line of victory every day and the light at the end of the tunnel keeps getting brighter. Peace in Iraq is right around the corner, as it shows in the drastic improvement in security over the past 18 months.

Although I miss home, I am proud to have the experience of spending a year here serving for the freedom and safety of both my fellow Americans back home and the citizens of Iraq. Sometimes Americans, whether it be unintentionally or not, overlook how fortunate we are to call the United States home. You taking the 10 minutes out of your day and the 50 cents out of your pocket to express your patriotism and show your appreciation for another's magnifies the thank you received to an indefinable meaning. Your support of the service member is just as important to our country as the service member's service to you, the American citizen. You are the driving force of the American Spirit wherever it is that we serve and the reason that The United States will always prevail, and for that I sincerely thank you. May God bless you, and God bless America.

Jessy R. Rutter
SGT, USA