

To: Commander Don Woolridge and all the Sons of Camp 2095

My name is Lcpl. Eric D. Raines from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. I am the proud son of one of your members, Warren L. Raines. I want to thank all of you on behalf of my fellow Marines in 1/3 JUMP Plt., who are currently serving our great country in Afghanistan, for the package you sent to support us while we fight overseas. I'd also like to extend my appreciation for your support during my last deployment to Afghanistan, and apologize for not writing sooner. Above all else, I wish to give my thanks and gratitude to all of you for what you do to preserve the proud and honorable heritage of our ancestors. These men, whose blood run through our veins, may not all be famous but they are all great men because they saw something very wrong with this country and had the courage and will to stand up to a force much greater than their own to fight for what they believed in. They fought many bloody battles with honor, courage and commitment to their fellow brothers of the Confederacy, and although they were not victorious in the end, I pray that their sacrifice and inspiration will be remembered for centuries to come as the 300 Spartans who fell at Hell's Pass continue to inspire us even to this day. The three core values to every Marine is honor, courage, and commitment. I believe our Confederate Fathers treasured these values as much as I do, and their actions are proof of my belief. Our country has become complacent and passive to the abuses of our government and although a drastic change is needed, I do not believe enough of our people have the will to do what is necessary to make that change, unlike our Confederate Fathers did.

It saddens me to see that so many Americans try to forget or distort what these men did in their attempt to better the lives of our southern ancestors. Our schools teach our children that the Civil War was all about racist white men who didn't want to lose their slaves, and unfortunately, our youth have been led astray from the truth by the very people we pay to educate them on history, not their personal opinions. Shame on all those who would desecrate the memories of all the heroes of the Confederate Army, for they also desecrate the memories of our families and the beliefs for which they fought and died for. I am proud of my southern heritage and will always defend the honor of these men who gave their lives to fight for what they believed in. Although I would like to be an official member of your organization, there is not much I can do to contribute since I am so far away, plus Uncle Sam barely pays me enough to put gas in my car, much less to be able to afford membership fees of any kind. But nevertheless, I am and always will be a proud Son of the Confederacy and will never forget the legacy that our Confederate Veterans left us. So again I thank all of you for what you do to preserve their legacy and the true history behind their sacrifice. I wish you all the best, and I thank you for your support as I do my best to destroy the enemies of our great country.

Semer Fi

Lcpl. Eric D. Raines
United States Marine Corps