

REAL HEROES > SFC ROBERT GROFF > BIOGRAPHY - *Continued From Page 16*

Before they drove off, Groff grabbed the extra ammo, weapons and communications devices from his vehicle.

Once inside a safe area-an abandoned milk plant-Groff and the commander of the Cavalry unit ensured the wounded received treatment and assessed the situation. Only four tankers had made it to the safe area and they were badly damaged and leaking fuel. The losses were heavy but could have been much worse. In a few hours, a small-town boy from the heart of America had become a seasoned veteran. The 724th had driven into an estimated fighting force of more than 250 armed insurgents. Groff's men had looked to him for decisive leadership when it counted, and he hadn't let them down.

For his heroic actions in battle that day, leadership and personal courage, Sergeant Robert Groff was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor. Today, Sergeant Groff still lives in Bartonville, Illinois, with his wife, Karrie, and his stepdaughter, Cassandra. He currently works as an Army Reserve Recruiter in the big city, Peoria. SFC Groff knows he has much to offer young men and women, to help them achieve their goals in life through the U.S. Army. He rarely talks about what he gave to the Army that day near Baghdad. Instead, he tells prospective Recruits what the Army has given to him: a college education, a chance to see the world, a future, and, when he least expected it, an opportunity to prove himself...to himself.

Am I a Hero? I don't know about that. It's an honor to be recognized, but that day I was just doing my job. [V]



SADLY, "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY" FIZZLES

While many states honor the day, and the U.S. Senate passed a resolution, March 30 goes largely unrecognized.

by Larry Scott, VA Watchdog dot Org

Did you know that March 30 was "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day?"

No? Neither did most of America.

There was nothing on my local radio and TV stations.

There was nothing in my two local newspapers.

And, Googling the expression in quotes turns up little in the way of public assemblies honoring Vietnam veterans.

Once again, the citizens of our country have turned their heads and looked the other way.

And, amazingly, there is no mention on the website of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). www.vva.org Shame on you!

To my Brother and Sister veterans who served in Vietnam, Welcome Home.

Following is a press release from Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), Ranking Member on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**Burr Resolution Recognizing Day to Honor Vietnam Veterans Passes Senate
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 19, 2010
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