

Postcards from Iraq

I learned a lot from all of you

by Leo Sandoval

Basrah Area Office, Gulf Region South district

My thanks to the great staff working at the Basrah Children's Hospital, Bucca, Basrah and Maysan Residents Offices.

I will take with me a great deal of pride and satisfaction knowing that what we are doing here is a good thing for Iraq and the United States of America. I have seen many things with my own eyes and I have formed my own opinion on what we are doing here. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction "knowing" first hand that what we are doing is the "right thing" to do in the pursuit of justice and freedom for all who desire it.

Now, as I look at my grandchildren, I can see and know that we are doing the right thing. I have seen the faces of this country's people up close and personal and I know that they want to be free from fear and suffering.

The corruption you currently see and hear about is not much different than what our very own country experienced in the early 1900s. So, I strongly believe that Iraq has a good chance. The people of Iraq will have to rise up and say enough is enough. We are doing all we can, you are doing all you can and each of you are making a difference "one brick at a time".

My son has high school friends who gave their lives for this cause, some friends who we as parents got to know only briefly. I needed to know and see that what I supported and what my son wrote about a few years ago in a high school essay about the war on terror was the "right-thing."

Although it is very difficult to justify, I have now found that peace in knowing that our Nation and our Coalition Forces have done our part to ensure our nation's security. I know that what we are doing is making the world a better place for our kids and grand kids. The sacrifices and monuments with names on them that will go up all over the United States will be honored by millions.

I learned a lot from all of you, including courage, bravery, self sacrifice and a common goal to make a difference in the world in a very difficult time. I hope I have made a difference if ever so slight and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of this Great TEAM at Gulf Region South.

ESSAYONS



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