



**COMBAT  
SOLDIERS  
RECOVERY  
FUND**

# KEEPING *in* TOUCH

Holiday 2020

[www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org](http://www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org)

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2020 has been a difficult year, but it is blessedly ending with the promise of a vaccine that will hopefully bring an end to this pandemic that has shattered so many lives. The COVID virus has given us all a stark lesson in the value of freedom and the importance of keeping our loved ones safe and healthy.

We are grateful to our scientists and doctors who have defeated this adversary, and for this very same reason, we are always grateful for the constant service and sacrifice of our American heroes — the combat soldiers who have given so much to protect the freedoms that we must never, ever, ever take for granted. 2020 has taught us that lesson so well.

A friend of mine has shared a wonderful poem with me that I would like to share with you during this season of thanks and renewal.

## **A Soldier's Visit from St. Nick**

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.  
I had come down the chimney with presents to give  
And to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about a strange sight I did see,  
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand,  
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind  
A sober thought came through my mind.  
For this house was different, so dark and dreary,  
I knew I had found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.

I heard stories about them, I had to see more  
So I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.  
And there he lay sleeping silent alone,  
Curled up on the floor in his one bedroom home.

His face so gentle, his room in such disorder,  
Not how I pictured a United States soldier.  
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan,  
I soon understood this was more than a man.  
For I realized the families that I saw that night  
Owed their lives to these men who were willing to fight.



**Please send donations to:**

Combat Soldiers Recovery Fund  
3804 Williams Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

[www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org](http://www.combatsoldiersrecoveryfund.org)

Soon 'round the world, the children would play,  
And grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.  
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,  
Because of soldiers like this one lying here.



I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone  
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.  
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye,  
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;  
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,  
my life is my God, my country, my Corps."



With that he rolled over and drifted off into sleep,  
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.  
I watched him for hours, so silent and still,  
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.

So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,  
And I covered this Soldier from his toes to his head.  
And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black,  
With an eagle and an Army patch embroidered on back.



And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,  
And for a shining moment, I was United States Army deep inside.  
I didn't want to leave him on that cold dark night,  
This guardian of honor so willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice so clean and pure,  
"Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."  
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,  
Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night!



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So for this holiday season, I again thank our soldiers, sailors,  
airmen and marines from the bottom of my heart — and I also  
thank you for your support during this year of challenges and  
sadness for so many Americans. We have a new year beginning  
— let us fill it with hope for our families and for our country.

