

## It is much more

What is the meaning of service and sacrifice to the community and the country? I met a man named Mr. Richard Koser Watson and it was he who has showed me what they are truly about.

It's about doing what you believe is right. Do what you believe in. I have also found this in the quote, "If you don't stand behind our troops, feel free to stand in front of them." You should do what you think should be done. Pay no attention to those around you. If they want to do something else, let them. If they want to follow you, they can do that, too. As long as you think that you are doing something good and just, do it.

It's about standing up for the underdog. Fight for those who can't fight for themselves. Help those in need. Allow them to have faith in you. Allow them to hope and pray that everything *will* be alright in the end. Let them see a rainbow after every storm.

It's about protecting what you love. Fighting for your country. Fighting for your family. Fighting for your neighbors. Fighting for your friends. Fighting for the family dog waiting by the door for that moment when you come home.

It's about putting others before yourself. Do what you can to protect them and keep them safe. Then you can worry about whether or not you like that color paint for the walls in your kitchen. Then you can worry about whether or not the

couch cushions are fluffy enough. Then you can worry about which mattress is more comfortable. Then you can worry about which bedspread will match your bedroom the best.

It's about being a patriot. Be proud to carry the American flag. Fight to keep your country from being suppressed. This can be found in the quote, "If you can read, thank a teacher. If you can read in English, thank a soldier." Fight to keep the flag red, white and blue. Fight to allow our flag to have thirteen red and white stripes. Fight to keep 50 white stars on our flag. Fight to keep this same flag flying at schools, businesses, and on our front lawns and porches.

It's about knowing what your fighting for. You don't just sign up to go into a war if you don't know why. You could be fighting only to kill innocent people or you could be fighting to protect your country under attack or another country in need of help.

It's about working for the people around you, not yourself. It's about doing what you do to protect the one's you care about. It's about sacrificing yourself for others. It's about doing what you do because you care.

It's about writing a check payable to the United States of America for an amount of "up to and including my life." It's about fighting for the red, white and blue and the people within.

It's about keeping this a free country. It is true, freedom isn't free.

Sometimes, we have to put boots on the ground, but freedom is freedom and it is worth fighting for.

It's about faith. Believe that world peace is possible. The problem is that sometimes, we are going to have to work to get there. As it was said before, freedom isn't free. If peace means war, so be it. However, we don't want to send soldiers somewhere if it is not completely essential we do so.

It's about hope. Hope that one day, we can all stand hand-in-hand, black and white, Jewish and Christian, Arab and American. Hope that our children and grandchildren will not have to live under oppression, suffer persecution, or live through a time of war and fighting.

It's about keeping our friends close and making peace with our enemies. What is the point of holding a grudge if it is only going to lead to more fighting? In fact, what is the point of holding a grudge at all? We should not be wasting time in wars by making more enemies. If we are going to fight, let it end in peace, not angry faces and sticking our tongues out at each other when the other isn't looking. That is child's play and we should be acting like adults, shaking hands, making peace, keeping a smile even though sometimes, it might not be completely genuine.

It's about service and sacrifice to the community and the country.

Mr. Watson has showed me that it is much more than putting your name on

a piece of paper. He has showed me that it is much more than putting on some camo, a pair of boots and grabbing a gun. He has showed me that it is much more than showing off your battle scars a few years later to your buddies. He has showed me that it is much more than standing in front of a sonar and radio, hoping it will all be over soon. It is much more than that.