



Dear Friends and Family,

Today my single, Raise Your Flag has been released on itunes and amazon.com (mp3). As many of you know I wrote this song in 2006 on a cold November night when I boarded a plane back to Indiana from California. The day before I had the privilege to be among the crowd as Brian's MITT team returned home from Iraq. That moment was one of the toughest day in my life, but also one of the most rewarding to be among such heros! The title Raise Your Flag, came from that wonderful experience. You can read the attached letter I wrote about that day and when I rose my flag. The bridge of the song was written just a few weeks later at an event

called Snowball Express. www.snowballexpress.org. As the families of the fallen arrived on buses to attend a day of community/sponsored activities the streets were filled with pride. People from all walks of life held signs, flags, waved and cheered. Most of us on the bus had tears streaming down our faces. "Be proud to be an American, show your pride again and again" were written to describe that moment.

It has been three and a half years since Brian's death. The journey has been one of peaks and valleys and I know the road is long. However, this song of my heart and the 9 and a half years that Brian and I had together is only a portion of what I would like to give back to our service men and women.

Dillon and I will leave Indianapolis on Wed to attend the Snowball Express in Dallas, Tx. I look forward to watching Dillon's excitement as we pass the unknown faces, hearing their shouts of pride for this wonderful country...but more than anything I can't wait to see Old Glory Fly! Raise Your Flag this holiday season...and always!

In addition I have started my own company, The Goldenstar USA. Please check out the website www.thegoldenstarusa.com All (100%) of the proceeds from the song will go to back to the company(that is right I am taking nothing) which is building a center for troops and their families. I have also shot a music video with The Erwin Brothers, be watching...it will be available soon!

Thank you for your support!

Autumn Letendre
The Golden Star, USA
www.thegoldenstarusa.com
Jeremiah 29:11

Semper Fi,
Autumn

Dear Friends and Family,

I do not know if I can truly capture in words the emotion of this past weekend as the MITT, G-10 Transition Teams were brought home. Standing amongst the crowd filled with great anticipation to see their loved ones, I could not have felt more welcome. The surreal environment surrounding me, banners, balloons, flags, excited children, wives, parents, friends etc. put a lump in my throat that I tried to control.

Everyone stood with enthusiasm and once the word was given that, "they are on the way." A surge of emotions erupted. Holding a flag in my hand, I couldn't muster enough strength to raise it. For once in my life, I didn't know where to go, what to say and whispered beneath my breath, "God give me strength."

As the bus rounded the corner, a hush fell as everyone watched for the doors to open, when the first figure appeared, the crowd sprung forward, as screams and cheers filled the air. I stood in the back, the lump in my throat had now moved to my eyes, as I struggled to hold back the emotions within. It was then that I lifted my flag. Three waves, one for Brian, one for Dillon and one from me.

Within minutes, in a revolving fashion each hero found me. Some stood before me with tear rimmed eyes. It seemed as if we swallowed in unison trying to reserve the emotion before an embrace of sincerity and unspoken condolence. They needed not speak, for a hug was more than I could have asked for.

A part of me wanted to stay in that moment forever. Standing under a star filled sky, I watched as the banners that had been put up just hours before, were now being taken down. It was dreamlike, as hero's walked among me. A smile fell across my face as I watched a dad tossing his child into the air time and time again. Caught in the moment, I felt the surge of tears enter my eyes as I knew that Brian would have done the same thing to Dillon. As I turned my head, I was proud. The laughter of a child, the freedom beneath my feet gave me much to be thankful for. I gave out a few last hugs, a wave, entering the car in which I came. As I sat down, I closed my eyes and thanked God. Another phase in this journey was over and it was wonderful. Internally, I began to hum one of my favorite songs, "Praise you in this storm" by Casting Crowns, the words calmed my heart. I watched the remaining families from my window and realized that although, emotions and storms may enter our lives we are all called to come home.

Thank you for your prayers,

Love,

Autumn Letendre

In Memory of Captain Brian Letendre

May 13, 1978-May 3, 2006