



**May 25, 2007 – Volume 3, Issue 18**  
**Special Memorial Day Edition**

Next Monday, our nation will pay tribute to all the young men and women that have fought so proudly and honorably for our nation. On Memorial Day, we will celebrate with parades and speeches and flag-waving and fireworks, as we should. From the Revolutionary War to the war we are fighting in today, we will celebrate and remember the fallen as a group. For those of us who have lost a loved one in war or through the service of this country, Memorial Day has a deeper meaning.



This Memorial Day, I would like to challenge everyone to make this holiday personal. In addition to honoring those men and women as a group, think about them on an individual basis. By that, I mean that each of us should have a specific person that we think about, honor, and celebrate each and every time that such sacrifices are mentioned. It doesn't have to be someone that you knew personally; it can be someone that you read about in the news or learned of through a history lesson that touched your heart and brought a tear to your eye. For me, I will think about Staff Sgt. Rex Young.



Click picture to watch my statment on the floor.

I met Rex when we both were attending Odessa Permian High School. Rex was a year ahead of me and graduated in 1965. He was a gifted athlete and played both football and baseball while at Permian. His mother said Rex was more interested in just being on the team and contributing. Childhood friends remember Rex as an exceptional athlete who could have written his own ticket in baseball.

Rex joined the U.S. Army on September 15, 1966. He completed basic training at Fort Bliss and departed for Vietnam on October 20, 1967. He was assigned to

Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th infantry of the 25th Infantry Division, known as the "Bobcats". Rex earned his first Purple Heart from a shrapnel wound on December 7, 1967 and earned a second Purple Heart on February 1, 1968 during the TET Offensive.

On August 21, 1968, Rex was killed by enemy fire as he provided protective fire to shelter elements of his platoon as they withdrew to safety. It was in these final selfless acts that Rex saved so many of his friends' lives. That day, Rex laid down his life for his friends and fellow soldiers. He gave up his life so that his family, friends, and people he never even knew, could live freely.

I often think of the many experiences that I have had over the past 39 years that he willingly gave up to honor his country and save his comrades. All of these experiences that I know that Rex must have looked forward to, both good and bad, were sacrificed on freedom's altar in his heroic acts.

This week, I had the great pleasure of introducing a bill which passed unanimously in the U.S.

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House of Representatives to honor Rex. The legislation will proudly name the Post Office at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas the “Staff Sergeant Marvin ‘Rex’ Young Post Office”. By doing so, his memory will live on—not just in the minds of those of us who knew him—but also by everyone that uses or drives by that post office and sees his name. This legislation is awaiting passage in the Senate.

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend, and again, I urge each of you to make it personal.

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The Conaway Chronicle will be issued every Monday or Tuesday when Congress is in session. I hope that you will find it informative and will continue to stay informed with my recent legislative activities in Washington. In the meantime, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for future issues of the Conaway Chronicle, please visit the website at [www.house.gov/conaway](http://www.house.gov/conaway) or don't hesitate to call me at (202) 225-3605. Check out my blog at [www.conawayblog.com](http://www.conawayblog.com)!

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