

To: Mark Noah

Seventy-four (74) years ago, this week, 18,000 Marines commenced the invasion of the Tarawa atoll in the Gilbert Islands and although close to 1000 Marines died there, they were successful in taking the island back from the Japanese. Of those Marines that were Killed in Action, several hundred were buried there with full intentions of bringing them home after the war.

Unfortunately, we are all too familiar with 'good intentions' and those Marines have been there ever since, waiting to come home.

We are not sure who or what inspired you, Mark, to grasp the military ethos – **Leave No Man Behind** – but we and four hundred plus families of those Marines who were left waiting on Tarawa want to say "Thank YOU!" Because of the effort – physical & financial – put forth by you and your team, one hundred plus families have cause for celebration this Thanksgiving Day because their Marine is HOME at last due to HISTORY FLIGHT and three hundred additional families will share special words at their Thanksgiving Day table praying for the safety and success of your team as they work to bring the rest of the Marines home from Tarawa!

How very Thankful are we that there are people like you in this world.

Our best to YOU and your Family.