

## Dee Sasser published a note.

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### Support the Troops???

[December 13, 2012 at 2:40am](#)

It's 3:40 AM, obviously I couldn't sleep... I woke up around 1 A.M. and couldn't get the conversation out of my head that I had with my friend Keith Laseter this morning.

Army Capt. Keith Laseter, wounded Gulf War veteran is the co-founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit organization " Bridging the Gap of Georgia".

Prior to my conversation with Keith I knew little or nothing about this organization. Basically they're attempting to fill the void left by a virtually nonfunctional Veterans Administration. Some of the stories Keith told me this morning truly got the hair up on the back of my neck.

I'm a baby boomer, born in 1947. My father had served in the United States Navy during World War II and, as most veterans then, left military service and was afforded full VA benefits.

At that time the US government and the Veterans Administration where I actually keeping to their promise to veterans and military service and my father was afforded to purchase their first home. Can you believe 100% financing?

A lot of vets then also took advantage of monies available to further their education. My dad was married with a new baby and he made the choice to immediately go to work and begin to support his family. My father worked hard and over the course of several years had gone from a fairly menial position repairing pinball machines and the like in juke joints. Eventually he gained a position with the largest General Electric appliance distributor in the Southeast and was a very successful sales rep. Long story short, the *honored promise of the government* at that time gave my father and tens of thousands of servicemen and women like him a kickstart to a successful and productive life.

What we see in this country today is a shameful set of circumstances where veterans are coming back from wars that should have never been entered into in the first place, with most grievous physical and deep mental wounds and are having to fight tooth and nail for the benefits that our government promised them when they signed up to serve.

I have, as I'm sure most of you have heard few blips on a few news programs about how the VA was lagging a bit behind in establishing the benefits for servicemen and women. The real truth is, as Keith shared with me his own story, these people who sacrificed the ultimate for their country are sometimes waiting literally years for medical procedures or just basic medical treatment that they sorely need. I know you are all aware that there are thousands of homeless veterans living on the streets in this country. This has got to be the most shameful, debasing circumstance that any society could allow to exist.

It is beyond my comprehension why this story does not lead the news every damn day.

When our politicians decide to send young men and women off to foreign countries to fight wars that, for the most part, none of us truly understand the real reasons behind, all the patriotic hooray, flag-

waving and political posturing takes top billing on your major news networks. And when some of these gallant young people began to come home in body bags we do see some of that on the news and that just inspires the chest pounding, so-called patriotic, military hawk's in our midst to waive their fist and justify continuing military action and higher body counts on both sides.

Of late there have been groups advertising on TV asking for your financial support to help our veterans. The fact that this is even necessary in this country is shameful.

Bridging the Gap of Georgia is one of those organizations created to take up the enormous slack of our Veterans Administration.

Saddest thing of all, Keith said to me this morning, that some days he just feels like shutting it down due to such a total lack of support from the public... from you.

I explained to Keith, although I certainly commend what he is doing, or at least attempting to do, I believe that concerted effort and pressure needs to be put on our representatives at home and in Washington to do what they're supposed to do and make the Veterans Administration work... Promptly and efficiently. But in the meantime his organization and others like it are desperately needed. But, as was explained to me this morning, they are getting little or no support from you, the flag-waving patriotic American public.

You will post all sorts of "support the troops" rhetoric all day long but where are you when it comes to volunteering and more importantly financially supporting these organizations?

Hell, where are you with simply writing your state and federal representatives to do what the hell they're supposed to do to take care of these people?

I'm attaching the link to Keith's website (<http://www.btg-foundation.org/>) and implore you to educate yourself on what "Bridging the Gap of Georgia" is all about and how you can help.

You really want to support the troops?... Then by god support the troops. Not with your rhetoric, not with your flag-waving, not with your parades but with your actual physical and more importantly, financial help.

Honestly, your empty words do nothing but for your own ego...