

Letter: **Letter to Jane**

Topic 070 Article 12 **September 7, 2003**

By Wayne Halm



September 13, 2001

Jane,

Yesterday you were looking for an American Flag pin to wear - please accept this one. I know that it is kind of old and a bit worn - it has worked harder than most over the years. It's nearly thirty years old (yes, I've been an American for a long time).

It's been to the White House a couple of times (yes there were days when fairly ordinary people were allowed such things). Few people could understand how men could wear the flag in front of the White House and throw their war medals at the building. I sincerely hope they never have to.

It's been to the Black Wall (yes, it's been wet from tears for the names on that wall). Most people don't understand why it's also been wet with tears for the names not on the wall. Several hundred thousand young boys walked into those jungles, most walked out - but in each case what walked out was not what walked in. I sincerely hope that people don't have to understand that distinction.

Yes, this flag has worked over the years. It has worked to uphold the American Ideal for almost thirty years. It has worked not so much to make America stronger as to make America better. I know that's hard to understand in these times of rage - but it has made me a better person.

I hope you can wear it with pride. Not pride born of anger, but pride born of accomplishment.

Wayne

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