

'Maybe I Can Help Somebody'

Colonel (USA Retired) Jack Daniel speaks at the Dedication of the Sergeant Mitchell W. Stout Medal of Honor Recipient Memorial, 12 March, 1995

NDQSA archive
memorial dedication
12 March 1995

When asked why he was returning to Vietnam for his second tour by Buddy White, Sergeant Mitchell Stout replied, "Maybe I can help somebody."

John Stuart Mill has stated, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things: the degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks nothing worth a war is worse. A man who has nothing which he cares more about than his own safety is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself"

Today , here and now , we honor Mitchell W. Stout . . . Sergeant Mitchell W. Stout, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery, (Dusters/Quad 50s), 24th Corps, United States Army.

Sergeant Mitchell . . . "Mitch". . . Stout. Sergeant: the most honored rank in the armed services. Sergeant . . . honored because they make things happen. Sergeants care for their men -- not always gently; sometime it's tough and profane. Sergeant . . . because they do it and take care of their men. We honor Sergeant Mitchell Stout who said, "Maybe I can help somebody."

Sergeants say, "Maybe I can help somebody."

Today is about the love, sacrifice and heroism of a warrior, but not only the love and sacrifice of Mitch Stout but also about those who sat and waited: those who loved and nurtured and encouraged and raised and taught and waited for the two tours of Mitchell W. Stout. They also serve who sit and wait.

Today is about love and sacrifice above and beyond the call of duty. No greater love than this -- maybe I can help somebody -- to save, to give life, give his life for all those he led and took care of . . . and for his country. Gave his life for his country and for his brothers in arms. Sergeant . . . leader . . . hero!

Today is about decisive actions . . . Sergeants are about action. . . They take the bit in their teeth and make things happen . . . whatever it takes. Stout had less than five seconds to decide: to do nothing; to throw his body on the grenade; or get it out and throw it back! So today is about decisiveness and action: one thousand one . . . one thousand two . . . one thousand three . . . one thousand four . . . one thousand five.

Today is also about valor . . . courage . . . above and beyond. Decision to act . . . to carry through with courage and conviction to take a life-saving action.

Valor, courage . . . Sergeant William Stout's valor. At 20, he challenged death to save, to help his friends and to fight his enemies.

Today is about many other things . . . of some we will never know . . . but most of it is about victory. The victory of good over evil. The ultimate victory of freedom over slavery and world dictatorship. It is about the ultimate collapse of communism, for as sure as god is in his Heaven and Jesus Christ is on the point, Sergeant Mitchell Stout's actions and the sacrifice of countless others caused the collapse of the Berlin Wall and Godless communism.

**So never let us forget Mitchell William Stout . . . Tennessean, . . . Volunteer . .
.Sergeant, United States Army . . . Soldier . . . Warrior . . . Lifesaver and Hero.**

**"Lord God of hosts, commander of our far-flung battle lines, be with us yet,
lest we forget, lest we forget."**