

by Kelsey Hilderbrand

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From: <http://www.luvtohunt.com/americansnipers.htm>

*About the Author...*

Kelsey Hilderbrand is a life-long hunter and outdoorsman. Born and raised in rural eastern Washington State and a graduate of Washington State University in Pullman (B.A. in Agriculture), Kelsey is both a veteran hunter and the founder of High Mountain Hunting Supplies (<http://www.luvtohunt.com>). He is also a musician and plays wicked cool drums.

Of his family, Kelsey writes, "All of us share a love for agriculture, America, and our outdoor traditions." Kelsey lives with his wife, Brooke, and son, Sam, in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains in central Washington.



As a devout hunter and outdoorsman, I have a natural fondness for the organizations which help promote the sports I love. I have written about the greatness of conservation organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited and their works to conserve hunting for future generations. I have been openly critical of groups such as PETA and I will constantly give my support for those organizations which serve to better the existence of wildlife through active conservation.

This article is a little different in the fact that I am not writing in support of hunting or wildlife conservation groups. While I continue to have strong faith in the Conservation movement, I believe there is something bigger which does not get the coverage it deserves, especially in today's media environment. Currently, the men and women of the United States Military are engaged in world wide effort to bring an end to terrorism. They fight diligently for justice and the preservation of freedom, using the tools of liberty and hope as their primary weapons against oppressive forces. Throughout the history of this great nation, the call to Freedom has been answered by Patriots on all levels and from all walks of life. Standing together, they hewed this land from the choking grip of King George creating a steel pinnacle of freedom, tempered in blood, for the world to see. The American soldier answers to that ideal yet today.

They face hardships many of us will never understand and secure our safety at a price we will never be able to repay. They leave their homes and families with the knowledge they may never return to their loved ones. They fight for an ideals many of us take for granted and they receive far less of the credit than they deserve.

Like the elk, deer, and waterfowl, the American soldier also has its support groups. These groups of men and women do the best they can to ensure our troops receive the best gear, support, and friendly contact from home. The most recent group I have begun supporting is [www.Americansnipers.org](http://www.Americansnipers.org). You are not going to meet a better group of guys who are more committed to making sure our troops, specifically snipers, get the gear and support they need. I met them at Shot Show 2005 in Las Vegas and wrote a small article about them in my original

[Shot Show Report](#) and was more than impressed. Each one of them is a trained SWAT sniper and each knows the rigors of duty. When one of their fellow officers was called up to serve in Iraq , they started a support group specifically for him. They called it the “Adopt a Sniper” program. What started out as a small support group bloomed into a huge outpouring of support and what was originally intended for one fellow officer has grown to encompass snipers in over 148 companies and growing rapidly. This is the definition of grassroots movements, with the coordinating members working on volunteer time. This means that all profits, donations, and so forth are sent directly to or troops. No commissions. No cuts. Just support for our troops because they believe in them. It doesn't get much better than this.

The next time you start writing out a check for the RMEF or Ducks Unlimited, or any other organization, remember the Men and Women who are ensuring the Freedoms we all love. Just like our conservation organizations, it doesn't require a financial obligation. Our troops appreciate any kind of support whether it is a personal commitment of time, money, or the sending of personal letter to someone overseas. When your three thousand miles away from home, some of the most precious things are letters from home. We hunters have done fantastic things in leading by example to preserve our traditions. Let's help lead the way in supporting our troops.



The Crew from Americansnipers.com at Shot Show 2005

*Kelsey H.*

**I GOT YOUR BACK!**

I am a small and precious child,  
my dad's been sent to fight.  
The only place I'll see his face,  
is in my dreams at night.  
He will be gone too many days  
for my young mind to keep track.  
I may be sad,  
but I am proud.  
My daddy's got your back.

I am a caring mother.  
My son has gone to war.  
My mind is filled with worries  
that I have never known before.  
Everyday I try to keep  
my thoughts from turning black.  
I may be scared,  
but I am proud.  
My son has got your back.

I am a strong and loving wife,  
with a husband soon to go.  
There are times I'm terrified  
in a way most never know.  
I bite my lip, and force a smile  
as I watch my husband pack.  
My heart may break,  
but I am proud.  
My husbands got your back.

I am a soldier.  
Serving proudly, standing tall.  
I fight for freedom,  
yours and mine by answering the call.  
I do my job while knowing,  
the thanks it sometimes lacks.  
Say a prayer  
that I'll come home.  
It's me who's got your back.

--Author: *Autumn Parker*