

# FORWARD MARCH !



# Production Overview

**Title:**  
**“FORWARD MARCH”**

A Veterans Military Civilians Teller and Listener Good News Play

**Theater Play**  
**Screen Play**

**Genre:**  
Social, Instructional, Pseudo-Documentary

**Taglines:**  
\* We’re in This Together  
\* Listening Is Golden  
\* Forward March!

**Synopsis:**  
An upbeat Theater play and Screen play showing the interactions between veterans, military and civilians’ participating in exchanging teller and listener positive stories. The objective: positive turnaround and uplifting various real-life stories based on universal actual events. With an audience of millions of veterans and military in addition first responders, family, and friends—the ultimate mission is to bring to all in the United States and free world countries the absolute goal of reducing veterans, military, and civilians from very negative, harmful, and destructive actions. The ultimate mission of the Forward March listening project is hope, courage, and optimistic methods of thinking. The formula? 22 to 0.

**Similar Films:**  
**Documentary:**  
**Theater Plays:**

Virtual new medium.  
The Vietnam War (Ken Burns)  
Similar Miss Saigon the Play  
Yankee Doodle Dandy

**Desired Key Cast: 15**

Journeymen and Women Actors  
Narrators  
Teller and Listener Actors  
Veterans and Portrayal Actors

**Producer/Creator/Writer/EP:**  
Christopher Uzzi Vietnam Veteran  
Veterans Listening Post Productions  
Dramatists Guild of American  
Email: [coachchrisu@aol.com](mailto:coachchrisu@aol.com)

**Co-Producer/Writer/Director:**  
Alexander Kane  
Collaborative Effort Productions  
R2R Media Group

# FORWARD MARCH

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BLACK SCREEN :

<Intro Music>: "Brickmaker March (fife and drum)"

FADE IN:

<TITLE CARD>

Stories are energy in motion. Positive stories produce positive outcomes".  
Natale Diaz Native American writer

*"You want to pick an issue where it both does some  
good on its own and at the same time helps draw  
awareness to a broader set of issues."*

*—Peter Thiel*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

A grand stage with a vacant podium and a panel of distinguished individuals come INTO VIEW. The distinguished individuals are seated in a semi-circle position consisting of veterans, listeners, and the decorated Navy Vice Admiral THOMAS CONNERS.

From the stage POV, a large, seated audience of civilians, additional veterans, and active military personnel awaits the start of the program. Aligned on either side of the audience, members from each branch of the U.S. Military stand stoically as an oversized American flag waves in the background. Vice Admiral Connors stands and approach the podium. He gives a stiff nod and welcoming smile.

VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS

HELLO, ALL, AND WELCOME!  
WELCOME TO THE VETERANS  
MILITARY LISTENING POST,  
TELLER AND LISTENER  
MISSION.

He opens the thin leather binder sitting upon the podium surface.

VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS  
(CONT'D)

YOU KNOW, BY YOUR  
ATTENDANCE HERE TODAY, YOU  
DEMONSTRATE AN EXTREMELY

HIGH FORM OF PATRIOTISM. IT IS SIMPLE. IT IS CALLED, LISTENING. WE, AT VETERANS MILITARY LISTENING POST SAY THAT PATRIOTISM COMES IN MANY FORMS. LISTENING TO OUR VETERANS AND MILITARY IS PATRIOTISM, AT ITS BEST.

**PAN ACROSS** the distinguished panel on stage.

VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS  
(O.S.) (CONT'D)

THE PERSONAL AND UNIVERSAL STORIES YOU WILL EXPERIENCE HERE TODAY WILL SERVE THE PURPOSE OF DEMONSTRATING THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMS OF TURNAROUND, WITH UPLIFTING AND POSITIVE STEADY STATE STORY POWER.

**PAN ACROSS** the countless faces of the civilian and military audience.

VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS  
(O.S.) (CONT'D)

SEEING AND HEARING THE FOLLOWING STORIES, ONE CAN ALSO CONNECT AND RECOGNIZE THAT THESE STORIES ARE PART OF US ALL. IN FACT, AS THIS DEMONSTRATION PROGRESSES, YOU, THE AUDIENCE, WILL BECOME PART OF THE PROGRAM SIMPLY BY PARTICIPATING THROUGH LISTENING.

**CLOSE-UP** on the Vice Admiral.

VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS  
(CONT'D)

WE, HERE AT VETERANS MILITARY LISTENING POST BELIEVE THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL TOUCH YOUR HEART, SO THAT YOU TOO WILL BE TRANSFORMED AND BE A TELLER AND LISTENER PATRIOT FOR OUR VETERANS, OUR MILITARY.

Before continuing, Vice Admiral Connors takes a moment to look over the faces of the men and women before him.

VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS  
(CONT'D)

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR  
PRODUCERS AND SPONSORS FOR  
GRANTING US THIS  
OPPORTUNITY. MORE  
IMPORTANTLY, WE WOULD LIKE  
TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF OUR  
MILITARY WHO ARE PRESENTLY  
SERVING, BY EXPRESSING OUR  
MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR  
THEIR POWERFUL, PROTECTIVE  
STRENGTH OF SERVICE FOR US  
AND THE FREE WORLD.

PAN ACROSS the standing members of the military. Their eyes full of respect, honor, and pride.

VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS

(CONT'D)

IN THE MILITARY, THE TERM,  
FORWARD MARCH REPRESENTS  
THE PROGRESS OF MOVING  
AHEAD IN A STRONG,  
PURPOSEFUL DIRECTION.  
THEREFORE, AUDIENCE, WE  
WILL START THIS PROGRAM  
WITH AND A PROUD AND  
ASTOUNDING:

(shouting)

FORWARD MARCH!

A LOUD whistle is heard. The audience turns in the direction of small military band from afar that begins to march in sync and make its way towards the stage and the listening post.

CUT TO:

<VINTAGE STOCK FOOTAGE>:

The sight of various military listening posts from years past are shown. The dramatic and powerful voice of a NARRATOR suddenly cuts into the scene.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

MILITARY FORCES HAVE USED  
LISTENING POSTS FOR EARLY  
WARNING DETECTION AND  
PROTECTION AGAINST THEIR  
OPPOSITION FOR AS LONG AS  
CONFLICTS HAVE EXISTED.  
WHEN NIGHTTIME COMES, IN A  
HOSTILE MILITARY  
ENVIRONMENT, A UNIT

COMMANDER WILL DEPLOY A MANNED TEAM SOME DISTANCE BEYOND  
THE COMPANY'S FORTIFIED PERIMETER.

Continue stock footage demonstrate the listening post in action with listening post nighttime maneuvers.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THE DISTINCT PURPOSE HERE IS TO PROTECT THE MAIN DETACHMENT FROM SURPRISE ATTACKS. THE TEAM HAS SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO LISTEN FOR SOUNDS AND MOVEMENTS WHICH MAY POSE A THREAT OF IMMINENT HARM TO THEIR MILITARY UNIT. WHEN HOSTILITY IS DETECTED...

Continued stock footage reveal choreographed movement of the military units to demonstrate hearing noises, exemplifying how a listening post returns to the company perimeter for safety.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...THE MANNED TEAM RETURNS TO THEIR BASE TO ALERT THE COMPANY. THE TEAM THEN USES A PASSWORD TO RETURN TO THE SAFETY OF THE UNIT'S FORTIFIED AREA.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

As the song "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" begins, a well-dressed group of DANCERS in uniform begin a choreographed close-order drill.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

THE WORD VETERAN MEANS "ONE WHO HAS GIVEN MILITARY SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY". THE WORD ALSO HAS A CIVILIAN DICTIONARY DEFINITION, MEANING A PERSON WHO HAS HAD LONG SERVICE OR EXPERIENCE IN AN OCCUPATION OR FIELD. EVENTUALLY, WE ALL BECOME VETERANS IN OUR OWN WAY.

The dancer's movements are beautifully performed for a minute before they pause at attention in front of their drill sergeant, halting sharply to parade rest.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THE U.S. ARMED FORCES ARE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE AT

TRANSFORMING ORDINARY  
PEOPLE INTO MILITARY  
EXPERTS.

THIS TRANSFORMATION IS  
FUNDAMENTAL FOR THE  
MILITARY'S MISSION TO  
SUCCEED.

PAN ACROSS the stern, disciplined faces of the dancers.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

JUST AS THE MILITARY  
TRANSFORMS ITS SOLDIERS,  
VLP BELIEVES THAT LISTENING  
TO THE STORIES OF VETERANS  
AND ACTIVE MILITARY, WITH  
THE FOCUS ON POSITIVE  
OUTCOMES AND OPPORTUNITIES,  
CAN TRANSFORM ALL WHO  
PARTICIPATE WITH THIS  
PROCESS, IN AN  
EXTRAORDINARILY BENEFICIAL  
WAY.

DRILL SERGEANT

COMMENCE!

Suddenly, the dancers continue with another drill expertise for another minute.

CUT TO:

<VINTAGE STOCK FOOTAGE>:

As the music continues to play, the sight of various military drill teams from years past are shown.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

As the song, "Yankee Doodle" begins to play, the band begins to march. After a minute, the song and march come to an end and the audience applauds their performance. After which, a brief moment of them smiling, hugging, and shaking hands with veterans take place.

VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS

WE ARE ALL EXCELLENT  
LISTENERS. LISTENING  
DEMONSTRATES THE POWER OF  
POSITIVE INFLUENCE. THE  
STORIES THAT WE WILL LISTEN  
TO HERE TODAY, ARE STORIES  
OF BRAVERY, ENDURANCE,  
SKILL, AND PASSIONATE  
EFFORT IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

The Vice Admiral gestures to the panel of individuals on stage.



VICE ADMIRAL CONNERS  
(CONT'D)

AS YOU SEE AND HEAR THESE  
STORIES, YOU WILL FIND  
YOURSELF THINKING THINGS  
LIKE, "I LIKE THIS," OR  
PERHAPS, "I CAN RELATE TO  
THAT," OR "I ADMIRE THAT  
STORY". LET US FOLLOW THIS  
ROAD TO STRENGTH AND  
STABILITY AS WE ALSO  
PARTICIPATE IN THESE  
STORIES.

As Vice Admiral Connors take a seat, the dancers adjacent to the stage form a circle then nod to the listeners on stage. All eyes are now upon the listeners as the audience watch them smile, shake hands, and relax.

After which, CHARLIE, one of the individuals sitting among the semi-circle on stage stands and approaches the podium. He appears a bit timid as he looks out across the vast audience. He glances back at the Vice Admiral who gives him a nod of confidence to proceed.

Charlie takes a deep breath as he turns back to the audience.

CHARLIE

HI, LISTENING POST. MY  
NAME IS CHARLIE. I AM A  
VETERAN; AND I HAVE A STORY  
TO TELL.

STAGE LISTENERS

CHARLIE, TELL YOUR STORY!

The faces of the audience appear interested and engaged.

CHARLIE

AFTER SPENDING SIX MONTHS  
ON THE COMBAT LINES NEAR  
THE IRAQI BORDER, IT FELT  
LIKE NEVER-ENDING DAYS,  
EACH DAY BLENDING INTO THE  
NEXT.

Charles appears to gather his thoughts.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

YOU LIVE WITH A SEMI-  
HEIGHTENED FEELING OF  
MENTAL READINESS THAT BURNS  
RIGHT THROUGH YOU.  
RECEIVING NEWS AND SUPPORT  
FROM HOME, ALWAYS MANAGED

TO LIFT ME UP WHEN THINGS  
SEEMED TO BE PUSHING ME  
DOWN.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: The sight of young military soldiers eagerly receiving mail and reading letters with heartfelt joy.

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

MY PLATOON BUDDIES ALSO  
PROVIDED UPLIFTING SUPPORT.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Young soldiers chatting and smiling with one another.

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

MY PLATOON SERGEANT, AND MY  
PLATOON LEADER-- THE  
LIEUTENANT, ALWAYS SEEMED  
TO BE ON LEVEL GROUND.  
THEIR STRONG LEADERSHIP  
NEVER WAVERED FROM MISSION  
TO MISSION.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Steadfast platoon leaders having uplifting conversations with the new recruits.

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

EVEN THOUGH WE FACED SOME  
VERY TOUGH TIMES, I VIEW  
THEIR SUPPORT AS POSITIVE  
PARTS OF MY MILITARY  
EXPERIENCE.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Young soldiers performing various duties on base.

SWITCH BACK TO: MAIN SCENE

Charlie continues to speak, addressing the audience with growing comfort.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

FITTING BACK INTO MY  
CIVILIAN LIFE HAS COME WITH  
ITS OWN CHALLENGES. WHAT I  
AM NOW CALLING MY "CIVILIAN  
LIFE'S MISSION" IS TO  
CONTINUE AS I DID WITH MY  
TRAINING, UTILIZING THE  
RESOURCES I GAINED FROM THE  
MILITARY, WHICH, IN THE  
LONG RUN, CONTINUE SERVING  
ME WELL.

PAN ACROSS the attentive stares of the audience and veterans.

CHARLIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

OUTSIDE CIRCUMSTANCES DO  
NOT DISRUPT THE MENTAL  
READINESS I LEARNED DURING  
MY MILITARY SERVICE. I TRY  
TO ADJUST AND ADAPT TO THE  
COURSE WHICH BEST SUITS ME.  
SO, THIS IS MY STORY. I  
MUST SAY, I AM VERY  
APPRECIATIVE THAT SOMEONE  
WOULD TAKE THE TIME TO  
LISTEN.

Charlie looks back at the stage listeners. They give him a collection of encouraging smiles. Charlie turns back to the audience and raises a hand.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

THANK YOU, AUDIENCE.

Just then, one female listeners on stage raises her hand and stands.

GAIL

HI, CHARLIE! MY NAME IS  
GAIL.

Charlie looks at her and smiles. Gail approaches him at the podium.

GAIL (CONT'D)

I AM HAPPY TO BE ONE OF  
YOUR LISTENERS. YOUR STORY  
IS ENCOURAGING FOR ME.  
THERE ARE POSITIVE  
ATTRIBUTES IN YOUR  
DESCRIPTION THAT HONOR YOU.

Charlie nods respectfully.

GAIL (CONT'D)

YOUR INFORMATION HAS ALSO  
GIVEN ME A BETTER  
UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THINGS  
REALLY ARE ON THE COMBAT  
LINES.

Gail glances at the audience then back to Charlie.

GAIL (CONT'D)

I NOW ALSO UNDERSTAND JUST  
HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO  
RECEIVE NEWS FROM LOVED  
ONES. YOUR STORY TAKES  
UNCERTAINTY AND TURNS IT  
INTO CERTAINTY. THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR STORY, CHARLIE,

AND YOUR INSPIRING  
DIRECTION.

Gail reaches out and gently touches Charlie's forearm.

GAIL (CONT'D)

I WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL  
TO YOU, AND ALL VETERANS  
FOR YOUR SERVICE.

CHARLIE

THANK YOU, GAIL. YOUR KIND  
WORDS MEAN A LOT AND ARE  
VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

As Gail returns to her seat, Charlie turns his attention to the audience.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

IT IS TRANSFORMATIVE TO  
SHARE WITH SOMEONE WHO  
LISTENS TO YOUR STORY.  
TELLING MY STORY IS  
IMPORTANT TO ME.

Charlie pauses momentarily, exuding a look of humility.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

THE ABILITY TO SHARE MY  
STORY WITH YOU IS TRULY  
WONDERFUL AND HEARTENING  
FOR ME. AND AGAIN, I THANK  
YOU, AUDIENCE.

After the audience claps, "I Like Your Hat" begins to play. PAN OVER to the dancers and band members who now clap and chant in unison.

BAND AND DANCERS  
(enthusias  
tically)

I LIKE YOUR HAT! I LIKE  
YOU HAT! I LIKE YOUR HAT!

They suddenly begin a choreographed dance while gesturing towards their respective hats.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

A PERSONAL WAY OF  
RECOGNIZING AND LISTENING  
TO VETERANS AND MILITARY IS  
THROUGH THEIR HATS.  
VETERANS LOVE THEIR HATS.  
MOST VETERANS' HATS TEND TO  
SHOW THEIR BRANCH OF  
SERVICE, SUCH AS THE ARMY,

NAVY, AIR FORCE, MARINES,  
NATIONAL GUARD, OR COAST  
GUARD.

As the song dies down, it is replaced by the song "In Your Easter Bonnet".

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

SOMETIMES THE ACTUAL TERM  
OF SERVICE IS DISPLAYED ON  
THEIR HATS. THIS IS ALL  
VERY GOOD. BE PROUD OF YOUR  
SERVICE AND LET EVERYONE  
ELSE BE THANKFUL FOR THE  
SERVICE THAT YOU PROVIDED.

As the music continues to play, the dancers pass by each other demonstrating humorous gestures towards their hats. The audience reacts with smiles of amusement.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE -- DAY

A grinning young woman approaches an elderly veteran exiting the store. The man is wearing his veteran's cap.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

HERE'S THE CATCH:  
SOMETIMES, FOR A MOMENT, A  
VETERAN MIGHT FORGET THAT  
THEY'RE WEARING THEIR  
VETERAN'S HAT. A PERSON  
MIGHT COME ALONG AND CONVEY  
SINCERE APPRECIATION.

YOUNG WOMAN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

The elderly man looks a bit confused.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

SOMETIMES THERE IS A MOMENT  
OF SILENCE AS THE VETERAN  
TRIES TO FIGURE OUT WHAT  
THAT PERSON IS TALKING  
ABOUT, BEFORE THE VETERAN  
REALIZES THEIR HAT SPARKED  
THE COMMENT AND IS THEN  
ABLE TO RESPOND.

The elderly man sees the young woman glancing up at his hat.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

A VERY EASY WAY OF GIVING  
RECOGNITION, WHEN PASSING

BY A PERSON WHO'S  
DISPLAYING THEIR MILITARY  
SERVICE HAT, IS SIMPLY TO  
SAY:

YOUNG WOMAN

I LIKE YOUR HAT.

A firm smile eases across the man's face.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

THIS WORKS VERY WELL. IT  
IS A VERY QUICK AND  
COMPLETE COMMENT WHICH  
IMMEDIATELY IDENTIFIES WHAT  
THE SPEAKER IS REFERRING  
TO, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY  
RECOGNIZING THE VETERAN'S  
SERVICE TO HIS/HER COUNTRY.

ELDERLY VETERAN

THANK YOU.

YOUNG WOMAN

(Gratefull  
expressio  
n)

MY PLEASURE, SIR.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

IN JUST THOSE FEW MOMENTS,  
THE VETERAN RECEIVES A  
WELCOME MOMENT OF  
RECOGNITION THAT YOU HAVE  
PROVIDED, CREATING A  
POSITIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE  
OUTCOME FOR ALL.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

The dancer brings their choreographed routine to an end and turn to each other.

DANCERS

(In  
unison)

I LIKE YOUR HAT.

After which, they exchange big smiles and handshakes.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: The Blue Angels flying by overhead in tight formation.

SWITCH BACK TO: MAIN SCENE

As the song "Off We Go into The Wild Blue Yonder" begins to play, the listeners and veterans on stage stand in unison and connect with each other arm-in-arm showing friendliness, The dances transition from their circle to listeners in the audience while gesturing to the panel on stage. As the demonstration concludes, the music ends with everyone shaking hands. Afterwards, the dancers and band member assume their halted stances as the stage panel return to their seats. Once everyone settles, the Vice Admiral nods to another veteran on stage. A man name ALAN stands and approaches the podium.

ALAN

HI. MY NAME IS ALAN.

STAGE LISTENERS

(In  
unison)

HI, ALAN! WHAT'S YOUR  
STORY?

ALAN

MY AIR FORCE MILITARY  
EXPERIENCE WAS THE  
STEPPING-STONE TO REACHING  
MANY OF MY LIFE GOALS. I  
WENT THROUGH INTENSE  
SCHOOLING IN VARIOUS AIR  
FORCE TRAINING CENTERS.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Scenes of Air Force training centers are shown.

ALAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THESE TRAINING CENTERS GAVE  
ME THE STRENGTH TO TOUGH  
OUT THE ROUGH SPOTS AND  
ADJUST TO THE MIDDLE GROUND  
WITH CONFIDENCE. THIS  
ENABLES ME TO CONTINUE TO  
MOVE FORWARD UNTIL THINGS  
POSITION THEMSELVES IN A  
CLEARER WAY.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Continued scenes of activity taking place in the training centers.

ALAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

MY MILITARY TRAINING WAS A  
DISCIPLINED JOURNEY. IT  
TAUGHT ME TRUSTWORTHINESS,  
RELIABILITY, AND  
PROFESSIONALISM.

SWITCH BACK TO: MAIN SCENE

ALAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

WHEN I FALL FROM GRACE,  
WHICH HAPPENS OFTEN, I CALL  
UP THE PARTS OF MY AIR  
FORCE TRAINING AND  
DISCIPLINE THAT HAVE TIME  
AND AGAIN PROVEN TO HELP ME  
GET BACK ON TRACK.

Alan gives a sincere and grateful scan across the audience.

ALAN (CONT'D)

IT'S TRULY A BLESSING TO  
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO  
SPEAK. THE FACT THAT I CAN  
EXPRESS MYSELF AND MY  
PURPOSE AND BE HEARD MEANS  
A LOT TO ME. THANKS,  
LISTENING POST.

As Alan puts his hand over his heart and smiles, a listener name ROBERTO stands to reply.

ROBERTO

ALAN, THIS IS ROBERTO. I  
JOINED THE LISTENING POST  
TO SEE WHAT HELP I COULD  
GIVE AS A LISTENER.

Roberto also lifts his hand upon his chest.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)

WELL, YOUR STORY HAS HELPED  
ME UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS  
TO BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK  
THAT I CAN DRAW UPON FROM  
THE MANY POSITIVE LIFE  
EXPERIENCES THAT I HAVE  
EXPERIENCED MYSELF.

Roberto gestures with respect and confidence.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)

AFTER LISTENING TO YOUR  
STORY, I HAVE RECOGNIZED  
THE RESOURCES THAT I'VE  
ALREADY ACQUIRED, SUCH AS  
THE GOOD FRIENDS AND CO-  
WORKERS WHO HAVE HELPED ME  
WITH MY GOALS.

A nod from Roberto follows.

ROBERTO (CONT'D)



YOUR STORY WAS HELPFUL.  
THANK YOU, ALAN. I WAS  
SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU BY  
LISTENING.

(Light  
chuckle)

TURNS OUT YOU ENDED UP  
HELPING ME!

A light chuckle from the audience ensues. Alan smiles, nods back to Roberto, then turns his attention to the audience as Roberto sits.

ALAN

I AM BUILDING MY STEADY  
STATE STORY JOURNEY ALL THE  
TIME, WITH BULLET PROOF  
CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF. I'M  
GLAD I CAN TELL MY STORY.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MILITARY BUS (IN MOTION) -- DAY

As the song, "You're in the Army now" begins to play, the new recruits are seen talking, smiling, and laughing. From the bus driver's POV, the long road ahead is shown.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED A  
LONG BUS RIDE OR TAKEN A  
BUS FROM UPTOWN TO  
DOWNTOWN?

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. ARMY BASE -- DAY

Drill Sergeant appears and waits for bus arrival. The bus eventually comes to a halt. The bus door opens. The new recruits begin to file off the bus.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

WHEN WE EXIT THE BUS AT THE  
BUS STOP, WE TAKE A FEW  
SECONDS TO REORIENT  
OURSELVES, TO DETERMINE  
WHERE WE ARE, AND IN WHAT  
DIRECTION WE WANT TO  
PROCEED.

As the men stir about with disoriented and curious expressions, they attentively observe their new environment.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

ONCE WE ADJUST TO OUR  
SURROUNDINGS, WE DEVELOP A  
PLAN TO CONTINUE THE NEXT  
LEG OF OUR JOURNEY.

The Drill Sergeant starts to direct the men where to stand. The men quickly adhere to his instruction.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

IMAGINE THIS BUS RIDE!  
THIRTY NEW RECRUITS ON A  
BUS, AND THE LAST AND ONLY  
STOP IS UNITED STATES ARMY  
BASE, BASIC TRAINING CENTER  
- FORT JACKSON, IN  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA.  
THIS BUS STOP IS A REAL  
LIFE-CHANGER!

CLOSE-UP on the stoic, determined expressions on the men's faces as they stand in perfect formation.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

ONCE OFF THE BUS AND  
STANDING BEFORE A U.S. ARMY  
DRILL SERGEANT, A STARE OF  
REALIZATION GLARES IN THE  
EYES OF THE NEW RECRUITS.

The Drill Sergeant strolls by the men unhurriedly with a stern, no-nonsense stare, projecting an aura of leadership and firm command.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THE DRILL SERGEANT IS THEIR  
NEW REORIENTATION EXPERT.  
IT IS CLEAR TO THESE NEW  
RECRUITS THAT PLAYTIME IS  
OVER. CAREFREE TOURISM IS  
NOT ON THE AGENDA; FOR THIS  
IS THE BUS STOP THAT WILL  
CHANGE THEIR LIVES FOREVER.

DRILL SERGEANT

'CRUITS!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

THIS THUNDEROUS WORD  
REVERBERATES THROUGH THE  
RECRUITS, SHAKING THEM TO  
THEIR CORE.

RECRUITS

SIR, YES, SIR!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

DRILL SERGEANTS ARE THE  
MILITARY'S BACKBONE. THEY  
ARE THE TRAINERS OF  
TRANSFORMATION, INGRAINING  
THE ENDURING STRENGTH ONE  
WILL NEED FOR MILITARY  
SERVICE.

DRILL SERGEANT  
(abrupt)

I SAID, 'CRUITS!

In their idle stance, the men strive to remain unrattled. Yet in the presence of the Drill Sergeant's authoritative presence, noticeable apprehension is stamped upon their faces.

RECRUITS

SIR, YES, SIR!

DRILL SERGEANT

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU  
ARE?! YOU ARE NOW IN MY  
HOUSE, AND IN MY HOUSE,  
NOBODY EVER WALKS! YOU  
NEVER WALK IN MY HOUSE!

Coupled with his angry expression, the Drill Sergeant appears to breath hard through clenched teeth.

DRILL SERGEANT (CONT'D)

YOU WILL ALWAYS RUN IN MY  
HOUSE! IS THAT CLEAR,  
'CRUITS?!

RECRUITS

SIR, YES, SIR!

DRILL SERGEANT

I WANT A SINGLE LINE RIGHT  
HERE!

The recruits run in disorderly fashion, lining up hurriedly as commanded.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

FOR THE NEW RECRUITS, THIS  
IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER BUS  
STOP. THEY ARE STUNNED AND  
STILLED.

DRILL SERGEANT

FROM HERE ON OUT, THE ONLY  
TWO WORDS I WANT TO HEAR  
FROM YOU ARE: "YES,  
SERGEANT!" DO I MAKE  
MYSELF CLEAR?!

RECRUITS  
(In  
unison)

YES, SERGEANT!

PAN ACROSS the obedient faces of the men as they stand perfectly at full attention.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

ONE WOULD THINK THAT HAVING  
ARRIVED AT THIS BUS STOP,  
THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW WOULD  
BE SOMETHING TO FEAR, BUT  
THAT'S NOT SO.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. BOOT CAMP TRAINING GROUNDS -- DAY  
TRACK with the new recruits as they face various course obstacles.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

THE INTENSIVE TRAINING  
WHICH FOLLOWS ARRIVING AT  
THIS BUS STOP BECOMES A  
TWELVE-WEEK JOURNEY THAT  
TRANSFORMS THESE BUS  
RIDERS, THESE RECRUITS,  
INTO POLISHED, PERFORMANCE-  
ORIENTED AMERICAN SOLDIERS.

Training on the obstacle course continues.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

DECIDING TO GO IN A  
POSITIVE DIRECTION, EVEN AT  
UNCERTAIN BUS STOPS IN  
LIFE, OPENS INNUMERABLE  
DOORS AND CREATES COUNTLESS  
POSSIBILITIES FOR POSITIVE  
OUTCOMES IN YOUR LIFE.

The recruits stand in lines doing jumping jacks in unison before eventually stopping on cue.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

THE RECEIVING DRILL  
SERGEANT, WHOSE VOICE  
PROJECTS AN UNMATCHED

DEMEANOR OF LEADERSHIP AND  
COMMAND, INSTRUCTS THE BUS  
RIDERS.

DRILL SERGEANT #2

FOLLOW ME!

Suddenly, the Drill Sergeant starts to jog, and the men immediately follow suit, jogging in perfect sync behind him.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

SO, BELIEVE IN THE GOOD  
POSSIBILITIES WHEN YOU ARE  
AT UNCERTAIN STOPS AND  
CROSSROADS IN LIFE, AND  
THEN BE ASSURED THOSE GOOD  
THINGS WILL FOLLOW.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

As the song, "You Are My Hero" plays, the audience appear utterly engrossed and eager to continue listening. They stare inquisitively towards the stage as the veterans, listeners, and the Vice Admiral gather in a circle of smiles and happiness.

A moment later, as the song subsides, everyone on stage returns to their seats as a veteran named SAMANTHA approaches the podium.

SAMANTHA

HELLO, LISTENING POST. MY  
NAME IS SAMANTHA.

STAGE LISTENERS

HELLO, SAMANTHA!

SAMANTHA

I AM ON THIS ROAD WITH YOU,  
AND I'M QUITE THANKFUL TO  
YOU GUYS. I'D LIKE TO TELL  
YOU ABOUT A STORY DURING MY  
TIME IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.  
WHEN I WAS CALLED FOR  
SERVICE IN 2005 DURING THE  
IRAQ CONFLICT, MY UNIT WAS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR A PART OF  
THE SECURITY CALLED THE  
GREEN ZONE IN THE BAGHDAD  
AREA OF IRAQ.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Scenes of National Guard soldiers moving about areas of Baghdad, Iraq are shown.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

GREEN ZONE IS A MILITARY  
TERM THAT SPECIFIES AN AREA  
THAT IS CONSIDERED  
RELATIVELY SAFE FROM  
INSURGENTS AND ENEMY  
FORCES.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: National Guard soldiers working diligently and interacting with Iraqi natives.  
SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

MY UNIT SAW ITS FAIR SHARE  
OF ACTION THROUGHOUT MY  
TOUR, WHICH WAS THIRTEEN  
MONTHS. AT TIMES, I THOUGHT  
IT WOULD NEVER END.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Scenes of intense moments for the National Guard soldiers, followed by scenes of the soldiers supporting and encouraging one another.

SAMANTHA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THERE WERE BOTH GOOD AND  
TOUGH TIMES. IT IS THE GOOD  
TIMES I CHOOSE TO REMEMBER  
AND THE TOUGH TIMES I  
CHOOSE TO LET GO.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: National Guard soldiers laughing and smiling with each other while attending to the less fortunate natives.

SWITCH BACK TO: MAIN SCENE

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT  
IN THE LONG RUN, I FOUND  
SOME GOOD BUDDIES AND  
LEARNED SOME GREAT LESSONS  
THAT I BELIEVE WILL NOW  
HELP ME IN MY PRESENT LIFE.

Samantha looks back and smiles at the individuals on stage. She then looks out across the audience and raising a hand.

SAMANTHA (V.O.)

THANKS, GUYS, FOR  
LISTENING. I NEEDED TO  
TELL THIS STORY.

While embracing claps from the audience, Samantha gives high-fives to the stage listeners. After which, a listener name DENISE stands from the semi-circle and approaches Samantha at the podium.

DENISE

HI, SAMANTHA! I'M DENISE.  
HEY! WOW! GOOD STORY!  
YOU HAVE A VERY HEALTHY

OUTLOOK ON YOUR TIME IN THE  
SERVICE. THIRTEEN MONTHS  
IS A LONG TIME TO BE AWAY  
FROM YOUR HOME AND FAMILY.

Denise lifts her hand upon her chest.

DENISE (CONT'D)

I ADMIRE THE WAY YOU HAVE  
CHOSEN TO REMEMBER THE  
GOOD. ALSO, THE  
INFORMATION YOU PROVIDED  
ABOUT THE GREEN ZONE IS  
INTERESTING. YOU ARE A GOOD  
STORYTELLER. PLEASE  
CONTINUE WITH MORE STORIES.

Samantha faces audience.

SAMANTHA

THANK YOU, DENISE. I WILL.  
I HAVE A TURNAROUND STORY  
THAT'S A WORK-IN-PROGRESS.  
I HOPE TO SHARE IT SOMEDAY  
SOON. FOR NOW, AS I WORK  
THROUGH IT, TELLING MY  
STORY I'VE SHARED TODAY  
MAKES ME REALIZE HOW  
IMPORTANT I AM IN MY OWN  
JOURNEY.

Denise walks over to Samantha, and they hug.

DENISE

THANK YOU, SAMANTHA, FOR  
SHARING.

As the audience looks on completely enthralled, the sound of eerie jungle noises creep into the scene.

CUT TO:

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: As the jungle sounds increase and continue, the sight of a comic book military unit on combat patrol from the 1950's comes INTO VIEW. The unit is seen being led by the fictional DC Comics character SERGEANT ROCK.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

BACK IN THE 1950'S, THERE  
WAS A FAMOUS COMIC BOOK  
MILITARY HERO KNOWN AS  
SERGEANT ROCK. SERGEANT  
ROCK READILY EXHIBITED THE  
HEROISM OF THE SERGEANTS OF  
THE UNITED STATES ARMED  
FORCES. THE NAME, SERGEANT

ROCK, SIGNIFIES COURAGE AND BRAVERY.

As more comic book scenes of Sergeant Rock and his combat unit are shown, "drum music" is heard over the eerie jungle sounds.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THERE IS A PART OF THE SERGEANT ROCK STORY WHICH REMAINS UNIVERSAL. IT CONTINUES TO BE A PART OF ALL OUR STORIES, EVEN TODAY.

More Sergeant Rock INSERTS are shown.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

MANY OF THE STORIES ABOUT OUR LIVES, THE LIVES OF VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY, ARE STORIES WHICH HAVE DISTRESS, FEAR, SHOCK, AND LOSS WOVEN INTO THEM. MANY STORIES INCLUDE HEROISM, LUCK, MAGIC, AND MIRACLES.

PAN ACROSS countless cover issues and scene inserts of Sergeant Rock and his unit fighting gallantly against the enemy.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

IN MOST HEROIC MOVIES, WE SEE THE HERO GET PUMMELED, CRUSHED, AND FLATTENED. IT SEEMS, FOR THE MOMENT, THAT THERE IS NOTHING LEFT OF OUR HERO.

An image of Sergeant Rock and his unit looking battered and defeated comes INTO VIEW.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

YOU MIGHT SAY, "THAT'S THE END OF THAT HERO." HOWEVER, THERE IS ALWAYS AN UPLIFTING MOMENT IN THESE STORIES, A TURNAROUND, A SMALL ACTION OF SACRIFICE, PERSEVERANCE, AND ENDURANCE, WHEN THE HERO OF THE STORY PERSONIFIED BY SERGEANT ROCK THE HERO WHO RESIDES IN ALL OF US, TURNS



THIS SEEMINGLY LOST AND  
FORGONE STORY INTO A NEW  
AND BETTER PRESENT STORY.

Triumphant and victorious images of Sergeant Rock and his unit are now shown. The American flag is seen anchored in the ground with the sight of the defeated and retreating enemy in the background.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

As the drum music continues, the dancers display another choreographed routine while the band employs a creative display of sharp and distinctive movements.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

NO, IT'S NOT EASY, BUT WHAT  
HERO'S STORY IS? THROUGH  
SMALL ACTS OF TELLING AND  
LISTENING TO A NEW STORY, A  
TOUGH, HOPELESS MISSION CAN  
TURN INTO A POSITIVE,  
SUCCESSFUL MISSION.

The dancers and band continue their proud and patriotic display of impressive movements as the drum music abruptly transforms in a brief rendering of the U.S. Navy song "Anchors Aweigh".

As the performance comes to an end, the stage panel smiles and shake hands yet again in the semi-circle. After which, a veteran by the name of SUSAN stands and approaches the podium.

SUSAN

HI, LISTENING POST! MY NAME  
IS SUSAN.

The veterans and listeners acknowledge her with enthusiasm.

STAGE LISTENERS

HELLO, SUSAN! TELL YOUR  
STORY!

SUSAN

I HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO  
THE STORIES AND WOULD LIKE  
TO TELL ONE OF MY OWN. AS  
A SINGLE MOTHER OF TWO, YOU  
MIGHT THINK THAT IT WOULD  
BE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE A  
FAMILY AND RISE TO MEET THE  
GOALS THAT THE ARMY DEMANDS  
OF ITS STAFF.

Susan takes a deep breath and exhales for dramatic effect.

SUSAN (CONT'D)

WELL, IT IS! I'M STILL IN  
THE ARMY AFTER NINE YEARS,

AND MY GOAL IS TO MAKE THIS  
MY CAREER. I'M ALWAYS  
JUGGLING THE  
RESPONSIBILITIES OF MY  
PROFESSION AND MY DUTIES AS  
A SINGLE MOTHER. IT IS  
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT--

PAN ACROSS the audience to see active-duty women shaking their heads in agreement.

SUSAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

--YET WITH THE TREMENDOUS  
SUPPORT FROM THE SERVICES  
OF THE ARMY AND MY TEAM  
MEMBERS, I AM ABLE TO HAVE  
PLENTY OF GOOD THINGS TO  
SAY.

Continue to PAN across the audience as everyone listens attentively.

SUSAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I LIVE ON POST AND RECEIVE  
ARMY SERVICES ON BASE, LIKE  
HOUSING AND SCHOOLING FOR  
MY CHILDREN; SO, THIS HAS  
HELPED ME IN FULFILLING MY  
DUTIES BOTH MY CHILDREN AND  
TO MY COUNTRY.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Scenes of active-duty women working on base, as well as attending to their children at home, helping them with homework, kissing their husbands.

SUSAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I HAVE ATTAINED THE RANK OF  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS. MY  
NEIGHBORS, THE ARMY WIVES  
AND MY FRIENDS ARE AN  
INVALUABLE RESOURCE TO ME.  
THEY HAVE HELPED ME WITH MY  
CHILDREN, AND WITH TIME  
MANAGEMENT.

Continue with scenes of active-duty women interacting with neighbors and their communities.

SUSAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I'M HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO  
TELL MY STORY BECAUSE IT  
SHOWS HOW MUCH MY SUPPORT  
TEAM HAS HELPED ME. MY  
STORY IS "HELPING BEGETS  
HELPING."

SWITCH BACK TO: MAIN SCENE

As Susan continue to address the audience, her smile widens with honor and appreciation.

SUSAN (CONT 'D)

I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL  
THE HELP THAT OTHERS HAVE  
GIVEN ME, AND I TRULY HOPE  
THAT MY STORY HELPS SOMEONE  
ELSE. THANKS FOR  
LISTENING.

Just then, a listener name MEGAN stands and replies.

MEGAN

HELLO, SUSAN. MY NAME IS  
MEGAN. WHAT AN EXCELLENT  
STORY! YOU HAVE PUT  
TOGETHER CONNECTIONS  
BETWEEN THE EVENTS IN YOUR  
STORY THAT DEMONSTRATE TO  
ME THE REASON THAT YOU HOLD  
THE RANK OF SERGEANT FIRST  
CLASS!

Susan smiles with a modest expression.

MEGAN (CONT 'D)

I LOVE THE PHRASE "JUGGLING  
RESPONSIBILITIES". IT  
SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW HOW TO  
ORGANIZE AND MANAGE  
YOURSELF WELL.

Several active-duty women in the audience give a simultaneous nod of approval.

MEGAN (CONT 'D)

YOU TALK MOSTLY ABOUT HOW  
OTHERS IN YOUR LIFE HAVE  
HELPED YOU. YOU HAVE A VERY  
GENEROUS SPIRIT, FULL OF  
GRATITUDE AND PRAISE FOR  
OTHERS. PLEASE, CONTINUE  
WITH MORE STORIES. THIS ONE  
IS GREAT AND VERY  
UPLIFTING!

Susan responses to Megan then turns her attention to the audience.

SUSAN

THANK YOU, MEGAN. THAT IS  
VERY KIND OF YOU TO SAY. I  
HOPE TO SHARE MORE STORIES  
SOON. FOR NOW, I'M WORKING

TO TURN MY CURRENT STORY  
INTO A POSITIVE AND  
INSPIRATIONAL ONE.

As Susan nods to the audience and Megan returns to her seat, the band starts to play "When Johnny Comes Marching Home". Then, as if on cue, the dancers begin singing while performing a close-order drill. The audience is visibly impressed.

DISSOLVE TO:

BLACK SCREEN:

As the music FADES to silence, the sound of snoring is heard.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARRACKS SLEEPING QUARTERS -- NIGHT

The face of a young recruit comes INTO VIEW. He is sound asleep in the semi-darkness. PUNCH BACK to see an entire room of sleeping recruits, all snoring haphazardly.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE  
ALL GO THROUGH SOME TYPE OF  
BASIC TRAINING IN OUR  
LIVES. IT'S A TIME AND  
PLACE WHERE SUBSTANTIAL  
CHANGES OCCUR, SENDING YOU  
OFF ON A DIFFERENT PATH.

TRACK WITH the Drill Sergeant from the long, narrow corridor, hastily making his way towards the snoring young men.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

BASIC TRAINING IN THE US  
MILITARY IS ONE OF THOSE  
CHALLENGING RESET PATHS FOR  
THOSE WHO DARE TO BE GREAT,  
AND PLAN TO HAVE A POSITIVE  
IMPACT ON THEIR COUNTRY.

The Drill Sergeant enters the room and stands just inside the open doorway. With both hands on his waist, his formidable silhouette scans the room with meticulous calmness.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

AN HOUR IN MILITARY BASIC  
TRAINING MIGHT GO SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS:

The clash of snores around the room causes the Drill Sergeant to shake his head.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

IT'S 4:45 A.M. THE  
AMPLIFIED SOUND OF DEEP-  
SLEEP SNORING FROM THE  
RECENT ARRIVAL OF NEW

RECRUITS FILLS THE  
BARRACKS .

Suddenly, a blaring trumpet outside in the near distance is immediately followed up by the Drill Sergeant quickly hitting the light switch.

DRILL SERGEANT #2

RISE AND SHINE! RISE AND  
SHINE, GENTLEMEN!  
EVERYBODY! UP, UP, UP!

The BRIGHT, beaming, overhead light instantly seizes the moment, as does the shouting bass of the Drill Sergeant's voice.

Without hesitation, the recruits BOLT from their deep sleeping, jump out bed, and scramble desperately to their feet.

DRILL SERGEANT #2  
(CONT'D)

'CRUITS! FALL-IN TIME IS  
TEN MINUTES! BE READY!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

FALL-IN MEANS TO BE OUTSIDE  
THE BARRACKS AND DRESSED IN  
UNIFORM FOR THE DAILY RUN.  
YOU MAY, FOR A MOMENT,  
THINK YOU ARE DREAMING, AND  
THAT YOU WILL SOON WAKE UP  
TO THE COOKING SCENT OF  
YOUR MOTHER'S PANCAKES,  
BACON, AND EGGS. BUT HERE,  
THERE'S NO SUCH LUCK.  
HERE, THE BUSINESS AT HAND  
IS TO RUN... AND RUN YOU  
WILL.

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. BOOT CAMP TRAINING GROUNDS -- MORNING

The Drill Sergeant starts to run, and the new recruits follow him in three separate lines. He shouts at the top of his voice and the young men await their cue to respond.

DRILL SERGEANT #2

ONE TWO! ONE TWO!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

OH, AND NO FANCY RUNNING  
SHOES HERE. COMBAT BOOTS  
ALL THE WAY. WHATEVER IS  
ASKED AND ORDERED FOR YOU  
TO DO, THE DRILL SERGEANT

WILL DO IT FIRST WHILE  
LOOKING LIKE HE JUST CAME  
OUT OF A TANNING BOOTH,  
NEVER BREAKING A SWEAT, TO  
SHOW YOU JUST HOW EASY  
THINGS ARE IN BASIC  
TRAINING.

DRILL SERGEANT #2

ONE TWO! ONE TWO!

NARRATOR (V.O.)

THE RUN WILL LAST CLOSE TO  
AN HOUR. YOU'LL RUN UPHILL,  
DOWNHILL, OVER ROADS AND  
FIELDS, WITH NO STOPPING  
UNTIL THE DRILL SERGEANT  
DECIDES TO SLOW THE RUN  
DOWN INTO A MARCHING  
CADENCE. THE RHYTHM OF THE  
CADENCE GOES SOMETHING LIKE  
THIS:

DRILL SERGEANT #2

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

The Drill Sergeant picks up the pace a bit, prompting the recruits to do so in kind.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

GOING THROUGH ANY TYPE OF  
BASIC TRAINING IN LIFE IS  
TOUGH; HOWEVER, THIS  
TOUGHNESS WILL ALWAYS  
CHISEL OUT NEW AND  
REWARDING CHANGES.

DRILL SERGEANT #2

(In  
cadence)

LEFT... LEFT... LEFT...  
RIGHT, LEFT!

RECRUITS

(In  
unison)

LEFT... LEFT... LEFT...  
RIGHT, LEFT!

DRILL SERGEANT #2

SOUND OFF!

RECRUITS

ONE, TWO!

DRILL SERGEANT #2

SOUND OFF!

RECRUITS

THREE, FOUR!

DRILL SERGEANT #2

BRING IT ON DOWN!

RECRUITS

BRING IT ON DOWN!

DRILL SERGEANT #2 AND

RECRUITS

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR! ONE,

TWO! THREE, FOUR!

DRILL SERGEANT #2

COM-PAN-NEE! HALT!

The recruits stop abruptly per the Drill Sergeant's command.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

A Drill Sergeant standing near the side of the stage steps forward, approaches the standing veterans near the audience, then turns to the audience with a stern yet welcoming glare.

DRILL SERGEANT #3

AUDIENCE, PLEASE STAND AND

JOIN US IN OUR MARCH!

The audience stands and remains in place. All eyes are on the Drill Sergeant, who abruptly begins to shout.

DRILL SERGEANT #3

(CONT'D)

(In  
cadence)

LEFT... LEFT... LEFT...

RIGHT, LEFT!

AUDIENCE AND VETERANS

(In  
unison)

LEFT... LEFT... LEFT...

RIGHT, LEFT!

DRILL SERGEANT #3

WANNA GO HOME ON YOUR LEFT?  
AUDIENCE AND VETERANS

YOU'RE RIGHT!  
DRILL SERGEANT #3

WANNA GO HOME ON YOUR LEFT?  
AUDIENCE AND VETERANS

YOU'RE RIGHT!  
DRILL SERGEANT #3

SOUND OFF!  
AUDIENCE AND VETERANS

ONE, TWO!  
DRILL SERGEANT #3

SOUND OFF!  
AUDIENCE AND VETERANS

THREE, FOUR!  
DRILL SERGEANT #3

BRING IT ON DOWN!  
AUDIENCE AND VETERANS

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR! ONE,  
TWO! THREE, FOUR!

Everyone drops to a dead silence in unison, displaying perfect stillness.

DRILL SERGEANT #3

AUDIENCE, FALL OUT AND  
RELAX!

The Drill Sergeant gestures to the audience and veterans to sit. They do so respectfully, with smiles and appreciation aplenty.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOOT CAMP MESS HALL -- MORNING

Although visibly exhausted, the new recruits following the Drill Sergeant into the building with expressions of relief.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

THE GOOD THING ABOUT THE  
RUN IN MILITARY BASIC  
TRAINING, IS THAT YOU WILL  
EVENTUALLY WIND UP AT THE



MESS HALL, A.K.A. THE  
CAFETERIA. THIS TURNS OUT  
TO BE A VERY GOOD THING:  
"FOOD!"

INT. BOOT CAMP MESS HALL -- MORNING  
The new recruits are seen eating and drinking with a heightened display of humility and gratitude.  
Many of them are seen smiling and laughing as they converse.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY  
As the song "The Halls of Montezuma" plays, the stage individuals, dancers, band members, audience,  
and veterans quickly settle down. After which, the song FADES to silence and a veteran upon the stage  
name JOE, stands and approaches the podium.

JOE

HELLO, LISTENERS. MY NAME  
IS JOE. I'M A MARINE  
VETERAN, AND I HAVE A  
STORY.

STAGE LISTENERS

(In  
unison)

HELLO, JOE! TELL YOUR  
STORY!

JOE

THANKS. AS THE SAYING  
GOES: ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS  
A MARINE. YOU KNOW, MANY  
PROFESSIONS COME WITH THEIR  
DIFFICULTIES. IF YOU ASK  
SOMEONE, "WOULD YOU DO THIS  
JOB OR THAT JOB?"

Joe tilts his head a bit with a slight scowl on his face.

JOE (CONT'D)

SOME PEOPLE WILL SAY, "I'M  
NOT CUT OUT FOR IT." OR "IT  
WILL TAKE TOO MUCH  
SCHOOLING." OR "IT'S JUST  
NOT ONE OF MY CHOICES."

He gestures a hand towards himself.

JOE (CONT'D)

TO ME, SOME CHALLENGING  
PROFESSIONS WOULD BE A

HEART SURGEON, A JET  
FIGHTER PILOT, A MONK, OR  
EVEN A RICE-PADDY FARMER.

Joe lifts a finger.

JOE (CONT'D)

THESE PROFESSIONS TAKE TIME  
AND ENDURANCE, JUST LIKE  
GOING THROUGH MARINE  
TRAINING.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: A unit of Marines are hard at work on a camp site.

JOE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

FOR ME, BOOT CAMP AND  
ADVANCED TRAINING IN THE  
MARINES ALSO FALLS INTO THE  
CATEGORY OF A CHALLENGING  
PROFESSION. IF YOU ASK MOST  
PEOPLE, "COULD YOU BE A  
MARINE?" THE ANSWER WOULD  
PROBABLY BE, "I WISH, BUT I  
JUST COULDN'T ENDURE THE  
TRAINING."

Additional scenes of Marines working together diligently are shown.

JOE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I BELIEVE PART OF STAYING  
HEALTHY MEANS CONSTANTLY  
PUSHING TOWARD YOUR DREAMS,  
NO MATTER WHAT. MY DREAM  
WAS TO BECOME A MARINE.

SWITCH BACK TO: MAIN SCENE

Joe pauses momentarily as he scans the faces of fellow marines standing near the audience.

JOE (CONT'D)

AND LIKE MY FELLOW  
BROTHERS, I WORKED HARD TO  
BECOME ONE. IT TOOK A LOT  
OF TIME, EFFORT, AND  
ENDURANCE, BUT I FINALLY  
MADE IT--ONE STEP AT A  
TIME. IT WAS VERY GOOD FOR  
ME TO TELL YOU HOW I FEEL  
IN THIS STORY. I THANK  
YOU, AUDIENCE, AND  
LISTENERS, FOR ALLOWING ME  
TO SHARE.

Just then, a veteran-listener name DAVE stands and replies.

DAVE

HELLO, JOE. SEMPER FI. MY NAME IS DAVE, AND I'M A FELLOW MARINE VETERAN. JOE, YOU'RE THE BEST OF THE BEST!

Joe gives a tight, humble grin.

DAVE (CONT'D)

JOE, AS A MARINE VETERAN, YOU AND I KNOW THAT MARINE BASIC TRAINING ON PARRIS ISLAND IN SOUTH CAROLINA TAKES GRIT, MENTAL FORTITUDE, AND COURAGE.

Joe nods in agreement.

DAVE (CONT'D)

WE'VE BEEN THERE. I GOT A LITTLE CHOKED UP, MAYBE A LITTLE EMOTIONAL WITH THIS STORY, JOE. I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR STORY. THANK YOU, BROTHER. THANK YOU, MARINE.

Another nod from Joe follows before he responds.

JOE

I AM SKILLED IN STAYING HEALTHY, AND I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR HEALTHY WAYS OF LIVING.

As Joe returns to his seat, the theme song to the movie "Rocky" begins to play. The dancers once again start to move, displaying a rough and tough athletic dance sequence. The audience appear impressed by the dancer's running prowess. After which, the dancers shift to another close-order drill.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT BASIC TRAINING WOULD BE THE TOUGHEST TRAINING YOU COULD GO THROUGH IN THE MILITARY. WELL, THINK AGAIN! LIKE GOING FROM COLLEGE TO GRAD SCHOOL, THE NEXT COURSE OF ACTION IN MILITARY TRAINING REQUIRES PLENTY OF EFFORT FOR ITS COMPLETION.

CUT TO:

INT. BOOT CAMP CLASSROOM -- AFTERNOON

A pair of Drill Sergeants are seen standing in front of a room of seated recruits. An instructional lecture ensues.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

THE DRILL SERGEANTS WHO TRAIN OUR MILITARY IN NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (NCO) TRAINING, AND ALL OTHER ADVANCED TRAINING IN THE MILITARY, SEEM TO HAVE COME OUT OF A TIME ZONE OF ABSOLUTE CONTROL AND EXPERTISE.

The young men stare attentively, giving the Drill Sergeants their utmost respect and undivided attention.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THEY KNOW EVERYTHING, DO EVERYTHING, AND ALWAYS LOOK LIKE THEY COULD MANAGE AND TAKE CHARGE OF ANY SITUATION THAT OCCURRED IN THEIR LIVES. THESE DRILL SERGEANTS ARE LIKE A GOOD COACH WHO INSPIRES AND GIVES YOU THE DIRECTION THAT CAN PROPEL YOU TOWARDS YOUR LIFE'S GREATEST SUCCESSES.

The Drill Sergeants point to the white board full of written information while conveying animated gestures.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THE BIG ADVANTAGE YOU HAVE IN MOVING TO THE NEXT SCHOOL OR THE NEXT PART OF MILITARY TRAINING, IS THAT THERE IS A SOLID DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING AND EXPERIENCE THAT YOU TAKE WITH YOU FROM YOUR PRIOR TRAINING.

The young recruits are seen raising their hands to ask questions.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THIS IS GREAT BECAUSE THE CANDIDATES THAT SHOW UP FOR NCO SCHOOL IN THE MILITARY ARE NO SLOUCHES. WHEN THE DRILL SERGEANT SAYS THE RUN IS AT 4:30 A.M., THE CANDIDATES ARE READY TO RUN STRONG, SOLID AND ENDURANCE STYLE RUNS.

The young recruits are now divided into several small study group. They are seen exchanging knowledge and ideas as the Drill Sergeants look on with folded arms.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

WHEN CANDIDATES PERFORM MANEUVERS LIKE RAPPELLING DOWN THE TRAINING WALLS, THEY DO IT WITH COURAGE THAT CONTINUES TO GROW AND TAKE ROOT, FURTHER DEVELOPING THEIR CONFIDENCE.

CUT TO:

INT. BARRACKS SLEEPING QUARTERS -- NIGHT

The room of new recruits are seen studying intensely on their beds. Each young man in his own little world of focused concentration.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

WHEN THESE SOLDIERS STAY UP ALL NIGHT PERFORMING DIFFICULT NIGHT MANEUVERS, KNOWING THE NEXT DAY THEY WILL BE DOING MORE OF THE SAME, THESE FINE YOUNG MEN WILL SAY:

A written test is underway. The young men are seen with intense expressions as they work their way through the assignment.

RECRUITS (V.O.)

(In  
unison)

I GOT THIS, WHAT'S NEXT? I  
GOT THIS WHAT'S NEXT? I  
GOT THIS WHAT'S NEXT?

NARRATOR (V.O.)

ONE OF THE DUTIES DURING  
NCO TRAINING IS TO BE IN

CHARGE FOR A DAY AS A FIRST  
SERGEANT. THIS IS AN  
EXACTING TASK.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOOT CAMP TRAINING GROUNDS -- MORNING

The Drill Sergeant points to one of the recruits. The chosen young man strides forward with confidence then turns alongside the Drill Sergeant to face the stoic rows of his fellow recruits.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

WHEN PICKED FOR THIS DUTY,  
YOU ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND  
AN ESTABLISHED NCO MEETING  
WITH THE LIEUTENANTS AND  
CAPTAIN FOR A BRIEFING ON  
THE PROTOCOL FOR THE NEXT  
DAY'S TRAINING.

The chosen young man starts to instruct his fellow recruits as they all march in place in unison.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

One of the dancers stands in front of the group of dancers, marching in cadence. The group follows the young man's lead, displaying a tough fitness routine.

Suddenly, they halt in unison and look at the audience with strong, confident expressions. After which, they move and assemble into four platoon-like lines before turning to face the FIRST SERGEANT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

WHEN THE NEXT MORNING  
COMES, THE ACTING FIRST  
SERGEANT IS IN THE  
SPOTLIGHT, CALLING THE FULL  
COMPANY UNIT TO ORDER IN A  
FOOTBALL-SIZED FIELD. IT  
GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

The First Sergeant suddenly assumes command of the dancers with a powerful, attention-seizing voice.

FIRST SERGEANT

COMPANY! A-TEN-SHUN!  
REPORT!

The four dancers in front of each line assume the role of PLATOON SERGEANTS. The four young men suddenly respond with a SNAPPING, perfect salute. After which, the dancer assuming the role of CAPTAIN, steps forward from behind the First Sergeant to receive the report.

PLATOON SERGEANT #1

FIRST PLATOON ALL PRESENT  
AND ACCOUNTED FOR!

PLATOON SERGEANT #2

SECOND PLATOON ALL PRESENT  
AND ACCOUNTED FOR!  
PLATOON SERGEANT #3

THIRD PLATOON ALL PRESENT  
AND ACCOUNTED FOR!  
PLATOON SERGEANT #4

FOURTH PLATOON ALL PRESENT  
AND ACCOUNTED FOR!  
NARRATOR (V.O.)

THE FIRST SERGEANT, WITH  
HIS ABOUT-FACE, THEN TURNS,  
PAUSES, AND SALUTES THE  
CAPTAIN, ALSO KNOWN AS THE  
COMPANY COMMANDER.  
FIRST SERGEANT

SIR!... NCO TRAINING  
COMPANY ALL PRESENT AND  
ACCOUNTED FOR, SIR!"

The Captain salutes the First Sergeant.

CAPTAIN

CARRY ON, SERGEANT.

As the Captain steps away from the men, the "Rocky" theme song begins to FADE into silence.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

AND THAT'S JUST THE  
BEGINNING OF THE DAY.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Various scenes from World War II are shown as the song "Hands Across the Sea" plays for a minute.

CUT TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

The audience continues to look intently towards the stage. Once the stage individuals conclude their chats, chuckles, handshakes, and smiles, they all settle in their seats. After which, an elderly veteran-listener wearing thick bifocals name POP gingerly approaches the podium.

POP

HELLO, LISTENERS. I'M AN  
OLD-WORLD WAR II VET. YOU  
CAN CALL ME POP.

STAGE LISTENERS

HI, POP. PLEASE, TELL US  
YOUR STORY.

POP

I RECKON I WILL.

Pop struggles a bit to look over the podium. He abruptly clears his throat.

POP (CONT'D)

YOU KNOW, AFTER ALL THIS  
TIME, I WONDER IF FOLKS  
WILL BE CALLING WORLD WAR  
II 'ANCIENT HISTORY'. IF  
SO, I GOTTA TELL YA; THAT'S  
OKAY BY ME.

Pop's gestures are subtle yet precise as he speaks.

POP (CONT'D)

MY TRAINING FROM LONG AGO  
HAS SERVED ME WELL. IN  
WORLD WAR II, THE U.S.  
NAVY NEEDED WHAT THEY  
CALLED CONSTRUCTION  
BATTALIONS, OR SEABEES.  
WHEN I ENTERED THE NAVY, I  
KNEW NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT  
CONSTRUCTION.

<INSERT STOCK FOOTAGE>: Scenes from World War II are shown of Navy petty officers working as Seabees.

POP (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I DEVELOPED MY SKILLS  
THROUGH THE EXCELLENT  
TRAINING I RECEIVED, WITH  
ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE AND  
MY INVOLVEMENT WITH TOUGH  
NAVAL OPERATIONS.

Additional construction battalion scenes are shown.

POP (V.O.) (CONT'D)

FAST-FORWARD TO THE  
PRESENT, I AM NOW LIVING ON  
A WELL-DESERVED PENSION  
THAT STARTED WITH ME BEING  
IN THE CONSTRUCTION  
BUSINESS BECAUSE OF MY  
NAVAL TRAINING.

JUMP CUT TO:

Post WWII scenes of robust men wearing hard-hats and reflective safety vests on commercial construction sites are shown.

SWITCH BACK TO: MAIN SCENE



Pop flashes the audience a coy grin as he adjusts his bifocals.

POP (CONT'D)

SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN  
LIVING WELL, AND I'M REALLY  
HAVING FUN TELLING MY  
STORY. IT FEELS GOOD TO BE  
ABLE TO SHARE MY JOURNEY.

A listener name DAVE stands to reply.

DAVE

HI, POP. DAVE HERE. I AM  
IN THE CONSTRUCTION  
INDUSTRY, AS WELL; AND  
HEARING YOUR STORY GIVES ME  
GOOSEBUMPS. I FEEL SO MUCH  
STRENGTH AND PURPOSE IN  
YOUR VOICE AS YOU TELL YOUR  
STORY.

Dave places his hand on his chest.

DAVE (CONT'D)

YOU REPRESENT THE HEART OF  
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. WE  
ARE THE PART OF AMERICA  
THAT WORKS VERY HARD, USING  
STRENUOUS PHYSICAL LABOR  
AND GIVING OUR VERY BEST  
EFFORT.

Dave nods respectfully, bowing slightly to the shorter, elderly man.

DAVE (CONT'D)

CONSTRUCTION HAS ITS  
CHALLENGING TIMES, BUT WHEN  
YOU GO TO WORK AND DO YOUR  
PART, YOU ALWAYS FEEL THIS  
DEEP SENSE OF SELF-WORTH  
AND SATISFACTION. YOU  
WALKED THE SOLID WALK, POP.  
AND FOR THAT, I THANK YOU,  
WITH GREAT SINCERITY, FOR  
SHARING YOUR STORY.

POP

THANK YOU, DAVE.

Pop turns his attention to the audience.

POP (CONT'D)

SMALL MOVES BUILD LONG,  
STEADY ROADS. IF I UPLIFT  
OTHERS, IT WILL UPLIFT ME.

The audience acknowledges Pop as he returns hurriedly to his seat. Just then, the overture song from the movie THE TEN COMMANDMENTS begins to play.

Reacting on cue, the dancers commence with yet another impressive, choreographed interpretation.

The audience looks in awe as the dancers move swiftly with profiles and action.

The lead dancer, who assumes the role of the martyr SAINT CHRISTOPHER. He and the dancers appear to look across a wide river before standing triumphantly.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

WE SEE MANY SIMILARITIES  
BETWEEN THE MEN AND WOMEN  
OF OUR VETERANS AND  
MILITARY AND THE  
CHARACTERISTICS OF SAINT  
CHRISTOPHER.

The dancers continue their lively dance sequence.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THERE ARE LEGENDS WHICH  
RELATE MANY DIFFERENT  
STORIES TO US ABOUT THE MAN  
NAMED SAINT CHRISTOPHER.  
MUCH OF WHAT HAS BEEN  
WRITTEN AND PASSED DOWN TO  
US THROUGHOUT THE YEARS  
PERTAINS TO THE  
EXTRAORDINARILY POSITIVE  
SERVICES WE ARE TOLD HE  
UNDERTOOK FOR PEOPLE DURING  
HIS LIFETIME.

The dancers make their way over to the standing members of each military branch and display sequence of thanks and appreciation.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

TAKE FOR INSTANCE THE OATH  
OF SERVICE A MILITARY MAN  
OR WOMAN TAKES WHEN  
ENTERING THE MILITARY.  
MILITARY PERSONNEL PROMISE  
TO SERVE AND DEFEND THEIR  
COUNTRY WHEN THEY TAKE THE  
OATH OF SERVICE.

After which, the dancers transform their movements into a serious display to perform the honor of taking oath as soldiers.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THE OATH COULD BE SUMMED UP  
LIKE THIS: REGARDLESS OF  
POLITICAL VIEWS, RACE,  
RELIGION, OR ANY OTHER  
DIVERSE SIDES THAT WE  
AMERICANS MAY TAKE, THE  
MILITARY PERSON WILL DEFEND  
THE COUNTRY AND YOU FROM  
ANY HARM.

They then step to the nearby American flag and salute in unison.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THIS SERVICE OF OUR  
VETERANS AND PRESENT  
MILITARY, THEIR SACRIFICE,  
STRENGTH, AND PROTECTION  
ARE THE RIVER CROSSINGS OF  
STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE  
THAT BACK UP THE FREEDOM OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA AND THE FREE WORLD.

After the overture song dies down to silence, the dancers about-face the Vice Admiral on stage who stands at full attention. With this, the song "This Land Is Your Land" begins to play.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

BECAUSE OF THIS  
IMPARTIALITY AND DEDICATION  
OF SERVICE THAT WE CAN  
READILY SEE IN OUR VETERANS  
AND MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN,  
WE CAN SEE THAT THE SAINT  
CHRISTOPHER EFFECT IS ALIVE  
AND WELL AND IS  
CONTINUOUSLY DISPLAYED WITH  
A STRONG RESOLVE THAT WILL  
NEVER FAIL.

The dancers show their unwavering determination and readiness to embrace their taken oath to proudly serve.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

TODAY, WE VIEW SAINT  
CHRISTOPHER AS THE  
PROTECTOR OF TRAVELERS. WE  
NOW PROUDLY PROCLAIM THAT  
OUR VETERANS AND MILITARY  
ARE EFFECTIVELY OUR "SAINT  
CHRISTOPHER'S OF FREEDOM".

In a beautifully choreographed fashion, the dancers slowly march across then off the stage. Once they exit, the song FADES and the excitement from the audience gradually subsides. After the Vice Admiral returns to his seat, a veteran name BARRY stands and approaches the podium.

BARRY

HELLO, LISTENERS. MY NAME  
IS BARRY, AND I WOULD VERY  
MUCH LIKE TO TELL MY STORY.

STAGE LISTENERS

TELL US YOUR STORY, BARRY!

BARRY

IN THE BEGINNING OF MY  
MILITARY BASIC TRAINING, I  
WAS ONE OF THOSE GRUNTS, A  
LITTLE SLOWER AT PICKING UP  
THE TRAINING MANEUVERS THAT  
WERE REQUIRED TO PASS BASIC  
TRAINING.

Barry shifts uncomfortably and pauses a moment.

BARRY (CONT'D)

THE PHYSICAL TRAINING WAS  
THE TOUGHEST. I JUST COULD  
NOT PASS THAT LOW-CRAWL  
PHYSICAL TEST WITHIN THE  
REQUIRED TIME.

CUT TO:

EXT. BOOT CAMP TRAINING GROUNDS -- AFTERNOON  
A group of young recruits are struggling through the trials of the obstacle course.

BARRY (V.O.)

AS WE MOVED INTO THE WEEKS  
OF TRAINING, THERE WAS THIS  
SUPER ATHLETIC GUY IN THE  
SAME PLATOON AS ME, WHO  
BECAME MY FRIEND. I CALLED  
HIM BIG G. HE TOOK ME  
UNDER HIS WING.

A more agile recruit can be seen assisting a troubled recruit.

BARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

HE EXAMINED MY LOW-CRAWL  
AND SAID THESE WORDS, WHICH  
HELPED ME IMMENSELY: "THE

LOW-CRAWL JUST HAS A LOT TO  
DO WITH A GOOD TECHNIQUE.

The agile recruit is seen giving advice as he gestures and points to specific sections of various apparatuses.

BARRY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

WITH BIG G'S COACHING AND  
PRACTICING HOW TO USE MY  
FOREARM AS THE PUSHING  
STRENGTH FOR THE LOW-CRAWL,  
I REALIZED THAT I COULD  
MOVE AT A MUCH FASTER PACE.  
I PASSED ALL THE PHYSICAL  
TESTS IN BASIC TRAINING  
WITH BIG G'S HELP.

The agile recruit, as well as fellow recruits, celebrate the troubled recruit's success. The smile, cheer, and give him high-fives and pats on the back.

SWITCH BACK TO: MAIN SCENE

Barry raises his hand sharply with an honorable salute.

BARRY (CONT'D)

I SALUTE YOU, BIG G,  
WHEREVER YOU ARE! IT IS  
BECAUSE OF YOU THAT I AM  
HERE TODAY, TELLING THIS  
STORY. I TRULY ENJOYED  
SHARING THIS EXPERIENCE.

A listeners name Sally stands with a huge smile across her face.

SALLY

HI, BARRY! I AM SALLY.  
WOW! YOU HAVE TOLD SUCH A  
GREAT STORY--A SHORT ABOUT  
PEOPLE RISING AND HELPING  
ONE ANOTHER DURING THEIR  
MILITARY SERVICE DAYS.

Sally appears on the verge of joyful tears.

SALLY (CONT'D)

THE AMAZING THING ABOUT  
YOUR STORY IS HOW OPPOSITE  
TYPES OF PEOPLE CAN JOIN  
FORCES TO MAKE THINGS  
BETTER FOR ALL. SUCH A  
SUPER STORY! A SUPER  
STORY, INDEED!

Sally turns to the audience.

SALLY (CONT'D)

HEY. IS BIG G OUT THERE?  
IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT ME.  
I AM AVAILABLE.

As Sally giggles, chuckles erupt from the audience and stage panel. Sally then turns back to Barry, lifting both her hands over her heart.

SALLY (CONT'D)

THANK YOU, BARRY. THANK  
YOU FOR TELLING YOUR STORY.

Barry nods with welcomed appreciation then looks out across the audience.

BARRY

TELLING A GOOD STORY IS A  
PASSION OF MINE. I THANK  
YOU FOR LISTENING AND LOOK  
FORWARD TO SHARING MORE OF  
MY IMPORTANT JOURNEY.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET -- AFTERNOON

As the song "Give My Regards to Broadway" begins to play, TRACK WITH a strikingly handsome MOVIE STAR as he makes his way out of a limousine and starts walking down the busy sidewalk. Passersby and bystanders recognize the movie star with pleasant surprise. He smiles, waves, and shakes several hands as he proceeds.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

HAVE YOU EVER MET A ROCK  
STAR, MOVIE STAR, OR  
ATHLETIC STAR? HOW DO YOU  
IMAGINE IT MIGHT MAKE YOU  
FEEL? PERHAPS SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS?

After which, the movie star and his ASSISTANT approach a storefront window and unexpectedly pause.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

YOU ARE WALKING DOWN YOUR  
HOMETOWN'S MAIN STREET AND  
PAUSE TO LOOK AT AN  
INTERESTING DISPLAY IN A  
STORE WINDOW.

Something in the window catches their attention and they begin to chat. From across the street, a FAN of the movie star suddenly notices him.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

YOU NOTICE A PERSON A SHORT  
DISTANCE AWAY WHO LOOKS  
VERY FAMILIAR. YOU SEE AND

RECOGNIZE THE PERSON AS A  
FAMOUS MOVIE STAR.

The fan is visibly excited and cannot control her elation.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

YOUR HEART STARTS TO BEAT  
FASTER; YOUR LEGS GO  
WOBBLY, YOU GET ALL FLUSHED  
AND YOU GIGGLE.

The young lady giggles and quickly makes her way across the street to approach the movie star.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THE MOVIE STAR APPROACHES  
AND PAUSES TO LOOK IN THE  
SAME STORE WINDOW, AND  
CASUALLY, STRIKES UP A  
CONVERSATION WITH YOU.

The young lady steps alongside the movie star and his assistant, uninvitingly joining them to admire the display in the window. The movie star notices her then turns to speak.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

YOU CHAT AMIABLY FOR AN  
EXTENDED PERIOD, LEARN THAT  
YOU HAVE A LOT IN COMMON,  
AND EVENTUALLY THE MOVIE  
STAR ASKS IF YOU CAN  
RECOMMEND A GOOD RESTAURANT  
IN TOWN.

The assistant takes a step back as the movie star and his fan engage in an enthralling conversation.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. TOWN RESTAURANT -- AFTERNOON

The movie star and his fan are sitting across a dining table from one another. The assistant is seated a good distance away at the coffee counter.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

YOU PASS ON YOUR BEST  
ADVICE. THE CHARMING MOVIE  
STAR THANKS YOU.

The movie star asks for more advice. The fan passes along the information to him.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

HAVING GREATLY ENJOYED YOUR  
CONVERSATION, HE CONVEYS  
APPRECIATION OF THE FACT  
THAT YOU HAVE ALSO BEEN  
VERY HELPFUL AND INVITES  
YOU TO KEEP IN TOUCH

THROUGH A PHONE NUMBER  
EXCHANGE.

The movie star writes down his telephone number and hands it to her.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

WOW! SUPER EXCITING! AS  
SOON AS YOU TAKE THE NEXT  
FEW STEPS FROM THIS  
ENCOUNTER, YOU ARE TEXTING  
AND EMAILING AND CALLING  
YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO  
TELL THEM YOU'RE NOW  
FRIENDS WITH A FAMOUS MOVIE  
STAR.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. SEDAN -- AFTERNOON

The fan is on her cell phone ecstatically sharing her excitement with her girlfriends.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

YOU KNOW WHAT? IT IS  
EXCITING TO SHARE A VERY  
POSITIVE EXPERIENCE AND  
RELATE A STORY THAT'S  
UPLIFTING AND FUN FOR  
OTHERS TO HEAR.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. AIRPORT -- AFTERNOON

A WEARY TRAVELER scrolling through his electronic tablet sits in the crowded waiting area, restlessly awaiting his flight departure.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

SUPPOSE YOU ARE IN AN  
AIRPORT, MAYBE A STORE, A  
RESTAURANT, OR ANY PUBLIC  
PLACE.

The weary traveler looks up from his tablet- to read the overhead arrival/departure board.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

AS YOU GLANCE UP, THERE IS  
A UNITED STATES MILITARY  
PERSON OR VETERAN, IN  
UNIFORM, WALKING INTO YOUR  
FIELD OF VIEW.

Suddenly, the weary traveler unexpectedly catches the sight of a uniformed military person standing only a few feet away from him.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)



AS THIS MILITARY PERSON  
TAKES AN INADVERTENT STEP  
CLOSER, IT HITS YOU THAT  
HIS UNIFORM IS A PROUD  
DISPLAY OF HIS COMMITMENT  
TO PUBLIC SERVICE AND  
FREEDOM TO YOUR COUNTRY.

**CLOSE-UP on the realization frozen on the traveler's face.**

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

DOES YOUR HEART BEAT A  
LITTLE FASTER? WILL YOUR  
EYES OPEN A LITTLE WIDER?

**The traveler takes the liberty of sitting upright, immediately displaying better posture.**

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THIS MILITARY PERSON, WHO  
WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW, IS  
DEFENDING NOT ONLY OUR HOME  
SOIL, BUT EACH ONE OF US,  
EVERY SINGLE DAY.

**As the military person attentively reads the arrival/departure board, the traveler appears to study the uniform with sincere admiration.**

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THE UNIFORM WORN BY THIS  
PERSON SIGNIFIES THAT THIS  
IS A PROTECTOR OF ALL THAT  
WE CONSIDER TO BE SACRED  
AND SECURE.

**The traveler glances at his watch then inserts his tablet into his briefcase.**

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

NOW, WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY  
ARISES, AND YOU SEE OR PASS  
BY A MILITARY SERVICE  
PERSON IN THEIR PROUDLY  
WORN UNIFORM, YOU CAN  
RESPOND TO THEM JUST AS YOU  
WOULD AN ATHLETIC STAR,  
ROCK STAR, OR MOVIE STAR.

**The traveler stands with his briefcase in-hand and walks over to the military person.**

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

YOU CAN SMILE WIDE AND  
STRONG. WE ARE SEEING OUR  
SECURITY AND FREEDOM IN  
ACTION.

The military person turns to the traveler. The traveler gives him a stiff nod and a friendly, inviting smile.

MOVIE STAR

HELLO, SIR. I JUST WANTED  
TO SAY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SERVICE. I SINCERELY  
APPRECIATE YOU AND ALL THAT  
YOU DO.

Once the military person smiles in return, the men firmly shake hands.

MILITARY PERSON

THANK YOU. THAT MEANS A  
LOT.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

THE ROCK STAR, ATHLETIC  
STAR, MOVIE STAR, VETERANS  
AND MILITARY ARE ALL STARS  
AND HEROES IN THEIR OWN  
WAY.

The song FADES into silence.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MILITARY CEREMONY YARD -- DAY

The audience, dancers, veterans, and listeners begin to settle once again. Once all is quiet and calm, a veteran name CARL stands and approaches the podium. The faces in the audience remain eager with anticipation.

CARL

MY NAME IS CARL, AND I AM  
COMPLETING THIS JOURNEY  
WITH YOU LISTENERS IN THE  
STEADY STATE STORY POWER.  
I STARTED AS ONE PERSON,  
AND NOW I AM FINISHING AS  
ANOTHER PERSON.

Individuals on the stage and in the audience give Carl encouraging nods.

CARL (CONT'D)

IT IS THROUGH YOUR  
WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN THAT  
HAS MADE ME REALIZE MY  
WORTH, MY STRENGTH, MY  
IDENTITY, AND MY PURPOSE  
THAT AUTHENTICATES ME.

Carl pauses for a moment to take in the genuine stares observing him from the audience.

CARL (CONT'D)

WHILE BEING DISCHARGED, I  
LANDED IN OAKLAND,  
CALIFORNIA AND WENT THROUGH  
THE DISCHARGE PROCESS  
THERE. ON THE FLIGHT HOME,  
I MUST HAVE DREAMED OF A  
HUNDRED DIFFERENT WONDERFUL  
SCENARIOS THAT WOULD OCCUR  
WHEN I GOT HOME.

CARL (CONT'D)

WHAT MADE ME THE HAPPIEST  
ON THAT FLIGHT HOME WAS  
THAT I WAS GOING TO SEE ALL  
THE PEOPLE AND ALL THOSE  
PLACES THAT I TOOK FOR  
GRANTED BEFORE. NOW, I  
COULD NOT WAIT TO SEE THEM  
AND VISIT THEM ALL AGAIN.

PAN ACROSS the faces of the dancers and band members.

CARL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

WHEN I FIRST GOT HOME, I  
HAD A STORY TO TELL, BUT I  
WAS TOO HESITANT TO IMPOSE  
MY MEMORIES UPON MY FAMILY  
AND THE PEOPLE I KNEW. THE  
UPS AND DOWNS I EXPERIENCED  
WERE TOUGH.

PAN ACROSS the faces of the standing military groups.

CARL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I  
HAVE REALIZED WITH THE  
SUPPORT OF THE VETERAN'S  
LISTENING POST IS THAT I  
REALLY CAN CHANGE MY STORY,  
TRANSFORMING ME FROM THAT  
WHY-ME PERSON INTO A  
POSITIVE GO-TO PERSON.

PAN ACROSS the faces of the audience veterans.

CARL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

YOU KNOW, WHEN PEOPLE TAKE  
THE TIME TO LISTEN TO US  
VETS AND MILITARY, THERE IS  
SUCH A WONDERFUL FEELING OF

RECOGNITION AND  
APPRECIATION.

PAN ACROSS the faces of the audience listeners.

CARL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

REALLY, IT IS NOTHING SHORT  
OF MIRACULOUS. I WOULD LIKE  
TO SAY, MANY THANKS TO ALL  
OF YOU WHO TAKE THE TIME TO  
BE LISTENERS.

PAN ACROSS the faces of the stage panel.

CARL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I HAVE ENJOYED EVERY  
SESSION, AND I'LL STAY  
CONNECTED TO THE STEADY  
STATE STORY POWER, WHICH  
LEADS TO UPLIFTING AND  
POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR ME.

Suddenly, Carl pumps this fist and shouts into the mic.

CARL (CONT'D)

LISTENERS, YOU ROCK!

As everyone explodes into a standing ovation, the song "God Bless America" begins.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

LET US POUR OUT SOME  
GRATITUDE FOR THOSE IN OUR  
SUPPORT NETWORKS, BECAUSE  
THEY ARE ALWAYS GIVING AND  
TRYING.

Both in the audience and upon the stage, countless smiles, hugs, and handshakes are exchanged.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

LET US ALSO POUR OUT SOME  
LARGE DOSES OF FORGIVENESS  
FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS.  
AND PLEASE, LET US ALWAYS  
INCLUDE LARGE DOSES OF  
HUMOR AND LAUGHTER.

Sincere display of kind gestures and warm affection continue.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR  
STORIES. WE AT THE  
VETERANS LISTENING POST  
WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR  
SHARING THIS JOURNEY WITH

US. IT WOULD BE REMISS OF US NOT TO MENTION, THAT IN THE WORLD TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER AND CELEBRATE ALL WHO HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THEIR COUNTRY.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

BY BEING A PART OF THIS EXPERIENCE, YOU ARE NOW A VALUED VMLP LISTENER. YOU WILL SEE THE POSITIVE CHANGE YOU WILL HAVE JUST BY LISTENING.

"God Bless America" starts to FADE into silence.

NARRATOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

YOU ARE NOW PART OF THE PASS-IT-FORWARD MISSION TO CONNECT AND RECOGNIZE OUR VETERANS AND MILITARY. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

Suddenly, the band starts to play "My Country 'Tis Of Thee". After which, veterans, military, listeners, and civilians alike, come together to sing the lyrics to the song.

DISSOLVE TO:

As the music and singing continue, PUSH IN on a CLOSE-UP of the American Flag seen blowing symbolically in the wind.

The End

FADE TO BLACK:

Thank You,

Veterans Listening Post Productions

## Invitation to Produce Forward March

You, your business, or organization can produce this play. The Production formatting is easily directed toward your organizational goals. The wording and credits are especially tailored to provide increases in donations or income. This is a great way for your enterprise to pass your mission forward and create wonderful benefits for our Veterans, Military and all who serve our country in their own special way.

As in all Theater Productions permission to produce applies.

Further interest and comments are most welcome.

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