

**This is a good counter balance story to the
Jane Fonda Vietnam
Woman Of The Year story.**



**Viet Nam 1966 Richard,
(my husband), never really talked a lot about
his time in
Viet Nam other than he

had been shot by a sniper.
However, he had a rather grainy, 8 x 10
black and white photo he had taken at a**

USO show
of Ann Margaret with Bob
Hope in the background that was one of his
treasures.

A few years ago, Ann Margaret was doing a
book signing at
a local bookstore. Richard wanted to see if
he could get her
to sign the treasured
photo so he arrived at the bookstore
at 12 o'clock for the 7:30 signing.

When I got there after work, the line went
all the way around
the bookstore, circled the parking lot and
disappeared
behind a parking
garage. Before her appearance, bookstore
employees announced that she would

sign only her book and no memorabilia would be permitted.



Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home. Ann Margaret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as second in

line, it was soon Richard's turn.

He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, 'I understand. I just wanted her to see it.'

She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, 'This is one of my gentlemen from Viet Nam and I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their country and I always have time for 'my gentlemen.'



With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a to-do about the bravery of the young men she met over the years, how much she admired them, and how much she appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he were the only one there.

Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big strong husband broke down in tears. 'That's the first time anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army,' he said.

That night was a turning point for him. He walked a little straighter and, for the first time in years, was proud to have been a Vet. I'll never forget Ann Margaret for her graciousness and how much that small act of kindness meant to my husband.

I now make it a point to say 'Thank you' to every person

I come across who served in our Armed Forces. Freedom does not come cheap and I am grateful for all those who have served their country.



On behalf of those who DO appreciate all that you did for us, thank you to each of you who receive this message who have served or are serving our country in the armed services or any other service.

