

The Freddie J. Owens Memorial Honor



This award is in remembrance of Freddie J. Owens, who served God, his country, his family and his brothers and sisters in arms with friendship, heroic honor, integrity, and commitment. He fought with bravery, gallantry, and heroism in the battle of Ia Drang Valley during the Vietnam War. In response to his unit being overrun, he continued an endless pursuit to further protect his men. Freddie was and is a symbol of Christ-like selflessness in life and death.

Freddie did not seek notoriety, recognition, or self-proclamation for his actions, but shared his generosity and love to those that needed it most. His smile and constant willingness to listen indicated the deep respect he had for others.

Even when agent orange cancer struck SSgt Owens, he worked to create lasting, meaningful, and positive changes within the Veteran community. He sat through meetings following a chemotherapy treatment knowing the Veterans in this community needed him. Freddie was unmistakably an inspiration. He defined persistence, endurance, and dedication.

Even in his last moments, he poured his heart into efforts to bring fairness, justice, and honor to Women in uniform. He thought Women Veterans were owed recognition as they surrendered civilian life for a cause greater than themselves. Just as he felt that Vietnam Veterans returning home were treated with anathema, he believed that treatment for Women Veterans fell below even that bar of disrespect.

It was his dream and prayer to see all Americans come to understand the full worth of our Veterans, to know of their selfless sacrifices, and to comprehend the unbearable tolerances of unrecognition.

This award is a visual testament, symbolizing what our Veterans have meant to our country... for they often became a runway on which the greatness of this country was launched.

In receiving this award, we at *Vet to Vet Tennessee*, honor you as a person who carries the same determination, endurance, and sacrifice in the love of other Veterans.

We expect that this recognition will have an exponential impact inspiring the continuation of the work and legacy in love of SSgt Freddie J. Owens.

Animo Et Fide