

GEORGE W. STRAKE, JR.

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Lt. Michael E. Thornton, USN (Ret)
345 Harbor Circle
Montgomery, TX 77356

Dear Mike:

I have been in the Rotary Club for over 30 years and I have never seen a meeting with such intense stillness and with no one heading toward the door before the program was complete. The reasons were obvious — only once in 30 years have we had a story like yours. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart, not only for speaking last Thursday but, more importantly, for what you did and did so well for this country. You were an inspiration to all of us in the room.

I was proud to point to your picture on the front page of Sunday's *Chronicle* and call you a friend. That was a great article and one that was well deserved.

I love talking to combat veterans because I have always treasured the stories of their military exploits. Unfortunately, one of the problems is that those who have had these unique challenges and experiences seldom want to talk about them. In my opinion it is the duty of those of you who have faced mortal combat to share your stories with following generations so they can know and appreciate the price of freedom.

Again, thanks for sharing your remarkable story. I will await your information on the Medal of Honor Foundation.

Sincerely yours,



George W. Strake, Jr.

GWSjr/bbh

cc: Mr. Derek Munger
Mr. Ron Woliver

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