**TUSAFB**

**Performance Feedback**

Many thanks for your performance here at Ferris H.S. I was impressed with the program and the talent that represents our country. I wanted to let you know that although the performance was outstanding, your Sergeant Crutcher, who plays bassoon, took time to speak with my son and his friend and provided an exceptional role model by simply spending time with a young person. His influence was immediately rewarded with my son practicing ever since he arrived back home. Please pass along my thanks and admiration to your band and chorus and a special mention to SGT Crutcher.

I was born in the 30s and lost my father when he went to Germany to fight in WWII. He was missing for 3 years and when they did confirm his as killed in action, we were unable to attend his burial. He was buried in France. All I had was his picture above the fireplace. Your big band performance represented his service and it was personal and real and wonderful. This stuff happened. All of it. Bless you for this precious gift that I can never repay or fully explain. Words fail.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Team:

I attended your Sunday afternoon performance in NYC. Just wanted to pass on

that your team did an incredible job sharing their talents. I've always

known of the exceptional talent that exists in the Army Field Band but it

was an incredible experience to see it up close in a very personal and

intimate setting. Your singers and musicians conveyed intense emotion in a

very beautiful performance. Please keep up the great work and I sincerely

hope to see you perform again in NYC!

Best,

Mike Nguyen

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Zach,

It was a pleasure to meet you and your wife tonight at the Ailey Cititgroup Theater. I was superbly affected by the opera that you composed and produced with the United States Army Field Band. Thank you. I am looking forward to the time that the veteran patients at Northport VAMC will be to able to attend a performance of your work and find the healing experience that I and others felt this afternoon via CD or DVD. My contact information is as follows:

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Thank you again for using your gifts and talent in service to the nation for the help of those service members who are in need of healing, both physically and emotionally.

Respectfully,

Mark

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have spent much of my life producing opera. When the gentleman in the wheelchair rolled on stage, I felt very uncomfortable, because it became personal. Just like when I see a homeless person, I feel responsible. It occurred to me for the first time in my life of the service and sacrifice we ask of our service members. I am now committed to bringing this story to as many communities as possible. I am changed.

Jane

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Dear Col Keene,

I wanted to let you know how magnificent were the performances by your members. When I started thinking about the fact that these people on stage had actually raised their hand and joined the Army, it was quite moving. The talent, as you know, was spectacular. We cannot produce such an opera with similar talents, and that was humbling. We will put this performance on in St Louis and I hope there is some way you can send some of your Soldiers to represent the Army. In a time where the national dialogue is about dysfunctional politics, your team brought a message of inspiration, hope, and reality. This is an important story that deserves to be told. These stories must be shared in every corner of the country and those responsible should be commended for their foresight. Someone had the vision and I am letting you know that it happened just as planned. I'm in.

Ahn

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Sir,

As an author, speaker and supporter of opera, you must know how appreciative we all were that you brought this story to the National Opera Center. In a time where we all struggle to figure out what to pay attention to and what is truly important, you showed us something of intrinsic value. Thank you. Let me know how I may assist.

Jeri

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Jan 14, 2018

Dear Sir,

You made an impression on behalf of the U.S. Army and our nation to those of us who thought we knew it all. You established yourselves as being in any conversation of artists who actually know what they're doing. Well done. Carolyn

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November 14, 2018

Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus

Gentlemen;

My wife and I attended your performance on November 9, 2018, at the Del E.

Webb Center for the Performing Arts in Wickenburg, Arizona.

We have attended 3-5 performances per year at the venue for the last 7 years. We have enjoyed all of them. Your performance was THE MOST ENJOYABLE OF ALL OF THEM. Thank you for your service, it was outstanding.

I am not a skilled critic of music performances, but let me say a few things.

The music was beautifully performed by the entire group. The various moderators were excellent. The soloists were exceptional. The Soldiers Chorus had perfect harmony. Commander Jim Keene not only did a beautiful job of conducting the group, but his gracious personality exhibited in both words and body language added a special character to even magnify the enjoyment of the occasion. As the retired CEO of multiple organizations I recognized him as an exceptional leader.

I am hopeful that The Army Field Band & Soldiers Chorus will return to Del Webb in the near future. We will again be front row, center.

Sincerely,

Robert Suhr

PS: As a LTJG USN I served in Vietnam in 1968-69. I am not sure why, but whenever I have been in a group where they asked veterans to be recognized, such as in church on Veterans Day, I have always felt uncomfortable and reluctant to stand. I still remember the day I departed for Vietnam my ship was pelted with rotten fruit by anti-war protestors while my wife watched.

Eighty of 280 of my shipmates died in service on that deployment. On November 8, as a result of your performance, I was happy to be recognized. A real catharsis. Thank You.

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Your holiday show is the best ever. I go every year and I am never disappointed except when we don't hear the Grinch song.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Robin Meade was the perfect host, and we actually learned about your performance from watching her feed on television. She is so talented, but I think your group is on another level and it was both smart and nice of you both to collaborate. Great vision.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Happy New Year!

I get so sick of going to performances that make the audience just sit and listen and don't allow photos or recording devices or any kind of fun or enjoyment. There is no wonder why people don't want to go to concerts that are stuffy. Young people are the future and they simply won't show up unless forced by parents if it's boring. When the military band performs and thinks they are a symphony, it's upsetting. You all changed the game tonight by showing humanity, humor, enjoyment, and all the other stuff that equals connection and self-awareness. Every comment and every story was enjoyable, and you should know that this is the first time I ever remember actually enjoying myself fully in any music performance outside rock concerts. You even made me check you out on Facebook and YouTube, and I'm stunned by how much stuff you have done. You opened my eyes and the eyes of all of those who attended your concert at the Lyric center. That's worth celebrating. Tell your folks they earned their paycheck and didn't bore anybody.

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Hello!

What a wonderful wonderful performance! I really enjoyed the show. It made me smile and brought tears to my eyes. Just when I thought the conductor was enjoying himself too much and needed some decorum (March from 1941) the band played Hymn to the Fallen from Saving Private Ryan and Music from the Long Road Home.

During the Armed Forces salute the friend I was with stood for each branch of the service as she had family members in all branches and spent her married life traveling around the country and the world with her children and her military husband.

Engaging the audience’s participation for Stars and Stripes Forever left me wanting more.

If I had known sooner about the live streaming I would have sent a message to my friends, but I had already turned my phone off when the announcement was made. Since the concert I have sent the YouTube link to my friends and family to enjoy. I look forward to hearing the recording when it is released.

Thank you.

Peace and Long Life,

Carol Ann Kuchmak, M.D.

Staff Psychiatrist, Retired

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Dear Betsy,

Thank YOU for your generosity of time and energy. The students and teachers all shared what a positive experience it was having you join us. It sounds like the experience not only excited students but also broadened their perspective about what is possible in music and the armed forces. Please pass along my sincere gratitude for the service you have all provided in advocating for music here in our Spokane area community.

By the way, you've been reading my mind: I have your name on a post-it note to express my thanks. I am so glad this worked out! Please keep us in mind for the future.

Best wishes to you and all the Soldiers' Chorus!

Tim

My fellow residents here absolutely loved the concert! The man with Alzheimer’s is a graduate of the Navy School of Music (trumpet), and said that music and the uniforms brought everything back as if it was yesterday. He was so grateful and so happy. Another resident has a really beautiful voice and sang his heart out. That all is what makes me proud to be a musician and to see people like you do the same. It is so meaningful for others.

Thanks to the entire band. You never know how you might be touching the lives of others.

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My name is Grace Peterson. I am a college senior and I plan on graduating in May 2019 as a Vocal Performance Major and Psychology minor. I am hoping to be put in contact with somebody on how I could be apart of this. I have always loved being a part of a choir and love to travel. This would be the opportunity of a lifetime. Thank you so much.

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Alyssa Fortson

What do you look for in people interested in joining? I am a tuba player, currently a freshman in High School. Does JROTC help?

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Wanda Harris

Just wanted to thank you for a FABULOUS concert. I brought my family, and wontedly 11year old son to enjoy the Jazz as he pursues jazz band in middle school. He enjoyed the concert and meeting the Trumpet player. Our whole family had a great time and we enjoyed all the selections. We especially enjoyed the vocalist, he had an amazing voice. The drummer and the banjo solos. Thank you also for your salute to the Veterans as my husband and I are also Army Veterans! We appreciate you bringing music to our community and around the world. Thank you.

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Mike Cronberg

Hello US Army,

On October 18th we saw the Jazz Ambassadors in Lakewood Colorado.

The perfomace was amazing. We took our two college daughters with us, they thoroughly enjoyed the performance and want to see them again (as do my wife and I).

Thank you so much,

The Cronbergs

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Hello,

Last night I was honored and impressed by the band, bringing tears to my eyes with each theme, song and piece.

The armed Forces Salute, in particular, brought to mind a wonderful piece of family memorabilia. I’ve sent it to the message board of the band directly, but thought you may get like to see it as well. Both sides of my family have served in every branch of military, including Merchant Marines (during WWll) since the inception of our USA with ancestors arriving during the great migration. I’ve been a proud wife, daughter, granddaughter, etc, eight generations back.

My father’s dedication to service garnered him 4 honorable discharges with the accompanying thank you letters. His grandfather, Frank Ferguson of Belvedere, Illinois wrote a song, with a friend after his WWl deployment. Please enjoy and incorporate if you wish, a song from the heart of a Doughboy.

With pride,

Susan Blake, DAR

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To Whom It May Concern:

My husband is stationed at Ft Riley Kansas. We went to a free concert by the Jazz Ambassadors in Junction City last night and it was such a wonderful treat! The songs were well chosen and the performers did beautifully. It brought me much joy to listen to live music! Thank you for bringing this performance to Ft Riley!

Madeline Baum

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U. S. Army Field Band: Greetings!

On October 27, 2018 I attended The Jazz Ambassador’s big band concert at White Concert Hall at Washburn University, Topeka, Kansas. I enjoyed the concert very much. Also, Its patriotic message of unification among Americans during World War Two is particularly meaningful and pertinent during the current time of so much dissention among many Americans.

Thanks to The Jazz Ambassadors! I hope they continue playing big band jazz and patriotic music for unifying Americans.

Allyn O. Lockner

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I had the wonderful experience of attending the Jazz Ambassador's concern at the Newman Center in Denver on Saturday.

It was truly an emotion experience to stand with a group and sing the national anthem. We have all lost sight of our wonderful heritage with the nasty and erosive politics we go through during election season.

This took me back to a focus of how things should be.

Your musicians are great and what a treat to experience.

Thank you.

Liz Wolfson

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To whoever makes decisions about this group:

I attended the performance on Sunday, October 14, 2018, at Post Falls, Idaho. I was impresed and inspired from beginning to end. I loved the unapologetic patriotism, the professionalism, the genuine talent, and the format of the whole presentation.

I never knew the military had such a group and was delighted! I am a musician myself, and so I really appreciated the skills and versatility of the group. The soldiers were so friendly, greeting the audience as we exited. I was encouraged to email you to let you know that I would love to see this program continued and expanded.

In our day of so much conflict within our borders, I think this kind of thing helps so much to instill patriotism and appreciation of our armed forces. Also, the sobering facts of war and sacrifice were a good reminder that we need to remain united.

Thank you again so much for this wonderful story in narration and song. God bless Ameria!

Connie Brandel

Living to Make a Difference

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Last evening my wife Janice and I had the pleasure of attending the U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus concert at the Town Toyota Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The concert and the Band were a great testament to our great Nation, the U.S. Army, and the soldiers, sailors, and airmen and airwomen who protect our unique and vital freedoms.

Great Music; Great Band; Great Army; Great Country.

Thank you for sharing your talent with us and reminding us of our individual responsibility to keep America strong in the world.

Sweet Land of Liberty.

Sincerely,

Gary Palmer

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I wanted to tell how moved were we who were attending your concert in Skien. It was a kind of concert that I did not know still happened. We are thinking that it was the best concert ever in our town and one that fit both Grieg and Ibsen, our two greatest artists. We are very happy to have you come to our home and thank you for being such nice people who are also great musicians. You taught us much and we are grateful. Star Wars was the best music I have ever heard in person. I am most sincere.

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At soundsjekk comes Sten Kristian Brath who was defence music’s responsible for this concert and came to me with many questions. Also we had two drummers two kids who would like to join Bojarenes inntogsmarsj. And of course we had it. Åsmund Haugaard and Elias Johnsen Zekhnini were going to work for the corps that night and this was a very surprised, but incredibly nice gesture. I am ashamed to say I became young and got excited very much and I got gone all the back on the side of the stage and taken film and picture like a tourist on my own stage. Afterwards the concert was finished turned ceremonies in field the band of a drumhead drew in a logo and signed it and gave it to us. It was also a picture of the Band After audience came on stage and wanted autograph. The music corps weren't used to this. The kids had had a very great experience ❤ the United States Army Field Band was a great experience also outside the concert. So incredibly easy to work with. So malleable and what an amazing conductor. I was close to him all night. Hit him in Oslo on Sunday at the fantastic jazz ambassadors concert at the Cosmopolit. On the boat trip at telemarkskanalen i brought Colonel Keene up to the legend skipper Arnold Nomme. After the ride the boat, moored went up to the bridge again and thanked skipper and his crew for the trip and shared details he remembered about the skipper’s career. I'm mighty impressed with this corps. Our Mission was just to open the doors at the ibsen house and make a concert. But thanks to that skien municipality and telemark fylkeskommune went in and chipped we got the second to none experience. Thanks to all here for a great and rewarding cooperation. And for Ibsen mugs gifts. After soundsjekk before reception I went to dirigentstolen while the corps sat in their seats and said skien municipality by Mayor wants to give you a little memory. Showed off the cup and said it was ibsen mugs made in porsgrunn of porsgrunn porcelain. Guro and Ragnar this surprised these. The band may not know how prized are those cups. I understand. One in the group said this should be their new tea cup. I said to the corps next time you come it will be a bbq in my backyards. I will wait.

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Dear Col Keene, Thank you for the time and talent shared with our team in Norway. The Jazz Ambassadors gave a magnificent performance at the Byscrene in Trondheim. We were able to bring several Embassy contacts and Norwegians who support the Marines in Norway. The Jazz Ambassadors played to a full house and they were able to recognize the Norwegian families who participated in the Adopt a Marine program at Christmas. Well done all around. The Ambassador has contacted Army leadership thanking them for sending your group. Colonel Renee Underwood, Army Attache to the U.S. Embassy in Norway

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Thank you for your great musicianship and the kind words about our performances. There were so many examples of your right choices including the music from the Incredibles. It was Incredible. Funny, right? We have never heard Sing Sing Sing played the way you played. We could hear the Jazz Ambassadors and we were moved. Had we known more about your level, we may have not chosen to play Bernstein. We would have certainly been more nervous. Kudos to your foresight including our musicians in the Boyars Marches. Recently, we have been tuning into your YouTube and Facebook and are amazed at your wide margins of music. America must be so proud of you. Yours truly. Let us collaborate please. Airyan, Royal Band of the Netherlands

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Thank you for spending time to know us in Norway. It was Sweden’s loss that we were unable to host you in Stockholm, but we will schedule in the future with much anticipation. We appreciate your enthusiasm about our horses. Our musicians were taken by the time you spent with them admiring the horses as much as we admire them. Your kind words were not lost. Colonel Laura Wrede, Royal Swedish Army Band, Mounted

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Thank you for sending your Army Jazz Band to Boca Raton. They were such professionals, and we are convinced we have never heard a louder band. I hope that is a good thing, because I mean it to be a good thing. The low brass and the high brass were just so powerful, we were quite taken by the block of sound and the tiny details that we knew must have taken a lot of time to master. We appreciated your smiling drummer and were riveted by his joy. The Jazz Ambassadors earned their name tonight by representing the Army very well. Thank you for honoring veterans. It was such and enjoyable evening. By the way, we like jazz but have never heard a big band live. We will look forward to the next time you come to our fair city. Ella Holmes King

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Hi Jenn!

I had a very memorable, eye opening time with you and the Field Band last Friday. I wanted to thank everyone again for being so warm and welcoming, and it is true that the Field Band is an "easy" band to play with. I am honored that I had the opportunity to play with you all, even more so because on top of being surrounded by excellent musicians, I was surrounded by great people with an inspirational purpose.

Thank you for guiding us around, making seating reservations, and providing me with a well-located changing room. I had the chance to talk to many band and staff members who passed through the hallway--everyone was so kind and polite—something you do not see everywhere, anymore. Col. Keene is the by far one of the nicest conductors I’ve met. I also learned that your percussionist, Mr. Stults, actually graduated from my high school 18 years ago, and that encounter made the whole experience feel a little more special. I think I shook more hands that day than all the hands I had shaken up to date.

On the other hand, my dad forgot to bring his camera to the concert so it would mean a lot to me if you could find a way to forward any recordings and pictures that were taken. Also if you have time, can I have a list of the pieces on the program? I heard a few interesting ones that I would like to listen to again.

I’ll be keeping an eye on the tight schedule that the band has that I’ve been told of.

Maybe we can meet again someday!

Wishing you all the best in the future, Erika Zhang

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Me and my mother came to Jacksonville to hear the band and chorus for the second time. The last time, we saw you in Melbourne and made it a point to see if you again. We were sort of hoping that we wouldn’t be disappointed because we had been so impressed the first time. We remember the elderly man you honored the last time who was in the band about 40 years back. I spoke to the young lady who does your broadcasts and she told us about your schedule. You guys must be so tired. I’m tired just thinking about it because I can’t even stand to bring in the groceries not to mention traveling around the country and hauling all that equipment and then playing so wonderfully and then doing it all over again. You must all have saints back home who water your plants and animals and kids, if you have them. We appreciated the humor in your performance and that your involved the audience. So few serious musicians know how to have fun. Keep it up. P.S. We really think that your national anthem is the best we’ve ever heard.

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SSS-MAMA TRIED you guys are so good, but wish it was just a little happier song for all us other mom's ....kinda sad to have a son in prison for life even!!! (",/ come on guys, " i know you did a great job on this song....but ....well you get my hint(",/ have a great day guys!!! (",/

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I need to tell you that you have a fine Soldier in Master Sergeant John Altman. He spent time talking with my son and I know he had to be a busy man. He treated him and our family like were life long friends and he didn’t have to do that. You can’t pay for an ambassador like that. What a great group of people. That bass player is so committed that I just can’t say enough about that. And your lead trumpet player was just a monster. How she could sustain those notes like that without passing out was pretty impressive. Anyway, thanks for sending your crew to Florida. I will be there whenever they return and I’m thinking about shaving my head and just following the group around. Only kidding about being groupie!- but I did sincerely appreciate them.

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You talked to me and said I could write you. My name is Amanda and I’m in the ninth grade and I play the euphonium, the trumpet, piano, and I’m learning the flute. I make my parents, who are musical muggles, take me to concerts and I had never seen your group before but I can easily say that you are the best I have ever seen- by a big margin. I took pictures and a few videos. Sorry for that because they said to turn off our phones, but that doesn’t make any sense. Maybe you can give me some pointers on how I can get good enough to someday perform in a group like yours. I’m not really sure I know where to start. My teacher tells me to practice slow but I get really bored, so I play everything really fast. He says I play uneven, but I don’t really care because I think I am probably better than he is already- although I know I rush all the time. I am trying to not always play too loud too because I get light headed and also my family complains. Tell your announcer that I liked how he would talk and then get ready to play the saxophone, play and then come back up and start talking again. I don’t think too many people understand how confusing it is to talk one minute, and then play the next- especially with all those amazing players- who are probably not very nice when you make mistakes-which is really ok, because if they weren’t judgmental, they wouldn’t be that good because they wouldn’t care. If I did talk and play, I would either not play very well or I wouldn’t make any sense. I’m going to start practicing that when I get home. I would appreciate if you could give me pointers on what kind of stuff I should read so I don’t trip over words. One more thing…I can’t tell you how much I liked people in your group smiling at me and your oboe player even waved. I chickened out talking to the musicians. I’m pretty awkward. That’s another thing I need to work on… Thanks for talking to me in the lobby. I will post the photo my mom took on Facebook.

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Thank you for letting us play with your band. I am a total pacifist and was pretty nervous and more than a little conflicted about sitting in your group today because of who you represent. I felt much better when I was introduced and the entire horn section stomped their feet. That was pretty cool. When your conductor looked at me before we even played, I could tell he knew I was there. That was weird because my conductors have no idea I’m there and that’s kind of sad. I looked around and heard all the amazing musicians (not from my school, duh) in uniform and it occurred to me that maybe I need to think differently about war and peace. I am in no position to judge people like your group or those who you represent. You are clearly incredible and it was unfair how you made me feel, but I appreciate it anyway.

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-Here is a highlight quote shared with us on Facebook from an audience member who attended the concert in Tampa, FL at the Straz Center:

"I wanted to say that while I was in the Army from 1990 through 2001, I never had the opportunity to experience what I did at last night's concert. I was able to take my youngest daughter and both her and I love the music and the experience. I have 9 children and she is the youngest. My daughter has been playing the trumpet since she was 8 years old and I have encouraged her every step of the way. She loved the concert and was impressed by each soldier on that stage. I wanted to thank you all for your service to our country and also the musical experience you provide."

--Daniel Ortiz, Veteran, US Navy & US Army

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What a trip! My uncle served in Korea and your Korean Soldier just sort of blew me away. His words before he sang that amazing song were just awesome. I was sobbing like a little baby. By the way, I’m a big overweight guy who used to serve in the police department. Anyway, I just need to talk about that Soldier. Never in my life have I witnessed such trust, humility, grace, honesty, and discipline as I saw in him. Maybe he does it every night, as the young lady told me in the lobby, but I’m not buying it. I have been around supervisors for many years and know how Soldiers must think about their leadership… Or not think about them. I worked for a guy who thought it was all about him for years…but I digress. Your Soldier trusted the conductor in a way I have not really ever seen before. I know absolutely nothing about classical music, but how in the heck could this Sergeant turn toward the audience and the Colonel faces the other direction? – He’s moving his hands and the expert Chorus who was way in the back of the hall and everything was in perfect harmony. There was some weird shit going on and I’m not the only one that saw what was happening. That was crazy. I know what I’m talking about because I sit in church every Sunday and hear our Chorus – who spend way more time apart than together. You can just tell when it’s not right, and I am still stunned at what I heard at that moment. The part that was mind-blowing was that looking at the expressions of the band members was as if it was no big deal, but they appreciated it anyway. Right when I recovered, that bell tolling and the pictures of the World Trade Center sent me spiraling way down again. Seriously, you need to give people a heads up of what you’re going to do to them emotionally- sign a release form or something. I say this because the lady beside me looked like hell with mascara running down her face- she saw me looking at her and we both laughed, and cried some more. Thank you to the young man who helped my mom into her car. That was very thoughtful. Wow. I’m writing to my congressman now.