

W E D N E S D A Y ,
Retired Coast Guard Combat Veteran



I just donated (via PayPal) to this organization because I fully believe in these principles. I served in the USCG as a Radioman 2nd class during the Viet Nam war, and was stationed on a support (LORAN) station in the Pacific for 14 mos. from Aug. 1964 - Oct. 1965. I served my entire 4-year hitch as an RM, after completing basic and RM school.

My ancestor, Commodore Stephen Decatur, Jr., (5 January 1779 – 22 March 1820) was an American naval officer notable for his heroism in the Barbary Wars (with the Muslim Barbary Pirates) and in the War of 1812. He was the youngest man to reach the rank of captain in the history of the United States Navy and the first American celebrated as a national military hero who had *not* played a role in the American Revolution.

My father, T. R. Decatur, Jr., served with distinction in the U.S. Navy during WWII (Naval Air Transport

Services), and my eldest son, Will, is a decorated combat veteran, having served three tours (two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan) with the U.S. Army 391st Combat Engineers. Our family has a tradition of serving in the U.S. military and would not have it any other way. When we took our Oath, we noted that there is NO expiration date !

Thanks for what you are doing; we're proud to be a part of it.

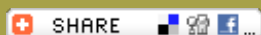
Commodore Decatur's most memorable quote is this one:

"Our country! In her intercourse with foreign nations, may she always be in the right; but our country, right or wrong."

This quote has often been misinterpreted to mean that he supported our nation, even when she was in the wrong. That is not what he meant here, however. I interpret this quote to mean that even when our foreign diplomacy or other, even more forceful, actions involving foreign nations are not as sterling as they could be (due to inadequate intelligence or political mishandling), it is not the fault of the people or of the nation, but the fault of those who are ill-prepared to govern her. To, therefore, withdraw support for the Nation due to the inept management of those in charge is to cut off one's nose to spite one's face, is it not?

My own quote is this: "It is clearly far past time for us, and for the world, to recognize that the Heart of America is not at all comprised of those who rule her, but Constitutionally, is comprised of the People whose duty and right it is to control those who rule her."

Ren Decatur



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