

Dear Mr. Trudeau:

I ask you to think of what you already so well know—the power of a drawing combined with the power of words.

Thomas Nast gave us the chubby Santa Claus we know, dream of, wait for, and so love; his work brought Boss Tweed back to the States to justice.

Millions over the decades have responded to the call from Uncle Sam, whatever his true origins may be.

Walt Disney stayed with a dream, and with *Steamboat Willie*, in 1928, a drawing, a series of drawings of a mouse named Mickey walked into our hearts and lives and brought with him hundreds of beloved fantasy characters many of which served with great positive impact in war time.

We know that *Kilroy was here* and of how many uncounted thousands that knowing gave the courage to go on.

We know that *Loose lips sink ships*.

We know to *Keep our powder dry*.

We know that *Peace was at hand, at hand, at hand....*

What we don't seem to know is how very much our Veterans know of war.

What we don't seem to know is how very much our Veterans suffer from PTSD, from TBI, from being paralyzed—from crushed dreams, destroyed families, and ruined lives. On March 5th, the Paralyzed Veterans of America will testify before a Joint Hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. They will take with them a Virtual Wall of names of citizens, which they are asking everyone to sign, supporting their efforts to bring justice, care, support, and respect to our Veterans hoping that will make Congress listen.

Eric Newhouse, a Pulitzer Prize winning, Crusading Journalist of the old school who actually does his homework, finds the truth, publishes it, and continues to stand behind it and share it, tells the current story of the impact of service on our Veterans suffering with too long tours, with PTSD, with TBI, with many other problems. Moreover, he offers solutions and resolutions both of which are in place in his state of Montana. Please read his *Faces of Combat, PTSD & TBI: One Journalist's Crusade to Improve Treatment for Our Veterans* and let its, actually their, reality walk into your life. We are hoping that *Faces of Combat* will make our citizens, our Congress, our President listen—not only listen, but positively, honorably, respond.

Mr. Trudeau, you have the drawings, you have the words—the power of your drawing

can make America aware, can make America stand by and demand that her unwritten covenant with those who serve will be honored—Be there for us, and we will be there for you.

Our Veterans would never forget that kind of service to them; nor would history ever forget that you, like Kilroy, were there for those who served.

Our Veterans Need You!

Thank you for all your efforts to preserve democracy; thank you for your kind consideration of our plea on behalf of our Veterans.

Ms. Remy Benoit