

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Robert Hill. I am a veteran Sergeant and infantry soldier who served with 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment from 2004 until 2008. During the entire time I was enlisted, I served with Robert Bales.

I first met Bales when I arrived at my unit (Charlie Company 2/3 INF) in Fort Lewis, Washington in 2004. Bales, who was a specialist at the time, had just returned from deployment with the unit and I was assigned to the same squad he was in. I spent the next year and a half training and working with the squad and Bales during the train up to our deployment in 2006 and then subsequently through our entire deployment from 2006 to late 2007. From the beginning, it was immediately apparent that Bales was a cut above others. He was a hard-working, dedicated, fun-loving, and honest man. He was older than most other soldiers in the platoon, but displayed more heart and drive than men 10 years younger than him. Bales was always someone that I could count on to be there for us. There is a saying about "offering the shirt off your back" to help someone, which I believe defines him in my mind (He literally offered the shirt he was wearing to me when I was going through a hard time). Bales was quick to joke and bring a smile to your face when things seemed their worst, but at the same time, he was always ready to be serious and give you a straight answer and guidance when it was needed. There are few men that I considered as dedicated and devoted to their duty and fellow soldiers as Bales was. I spent the deployment with him through the highs and the lows and could never recall a time when Bales was not a rock to be relied on for whatever anyone needed.

After our return from deployment, I was assigned to the Scout/Sniper (Headquarters) section of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment and promoted to Sergeant as an assistant Team Leader. Bales was also assigned to this section to the Sniper section and subsequently took over this section prior to my end of service. Bales took to this role with the same vigor, determination, and optimism that defined him as a man. I respect him more than can be put into words and truly consider him to be a brother that I know sacrificed so much for his fellow soldiers and his country. It was truly an honor and privilege to have served with him. I hope that whomever is reading this letter will be able to understand that he was one of the greatest men I know.

Sincerely,



Robert Hill

Sergeant / Veteran / United States Army Infantry