

Dear friend of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight,

It was September of 2005, the first day of school. A social studies teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock AR named Martha Cothren got permission from her principal and school superintendent to remove all the desks from her classroom.

When the first period students entered the room, they were surprised to find no desks. They looked around, confused, and asked, "Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?"

She told them, "You can't have a desk until you tell me what you have done to earn the right to sit at a desk."

One student suggested, "Well, we've studied and gotten good grades."

"No," she said. "That's not it."

Another said, "Well, we've been well behaved."

She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so, they came and went... the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom.

Kids phoned parents to tell them what was happening at school. By early afternoon, a TV news crew showed up in Ms. Cothren's classroom to cover the story of this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her classroom.

The final period of the day came. Still no desks. The puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, and Martha Cothren said, "Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what they have done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you."

At that point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven U.S. Veterans, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. Each vet placed a desk in its place and then walked over and stood alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place, those kids started to understand, maybe for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Their teacher said, "You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education, interrupting careers and family, and many didn't come back. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It's your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to become good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it!!"

And I would guess they never have.

Here's a look at our scoreboard:

Veterans flown				Flying in June				On Waitlist			
WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total	WWII	Korea	Vietnam	Total
1,049	1,272	2,974	5,215	0	1	95	96	0	9	346	355

For the heroes,

Ken Moberg
President