



STEVEN J. GREER FOUNDATION

POB 753, Eastman, GA 31023

February 20, 2011

Lee C. Bollinger
President, Columbia University
202 Low Library
535 West 116th Street, Mail Code 4309
New York, NY 10027

Dear Sir:

As a retired soldier I am concerned for the future of our great nation. Without the United States Military willingly standing on point for us all, our freedoms are in jeopardy. Thus, the news of such abhorrent treatment of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans at a recent debate at Columbia University is rather appalling.

Having fought to defend the First Amendment, I welcome spirited debate regarding the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) and its future association with Columbia University. However, such healthy debate should never be allowed to denigrate the honorable and faithful service of our nation's veterans such as Anthony Maschek, a Columbia freshman and former US Army Staff Sergeant. Anthony was awarded the Purple Heart after being shot 11 times in a firefight in northern Iraq in February 2008. He miraculously survived the insurgent attack in Kirkuk. In the hail of gunfire, he broke both legs and suffered wounds to his abdomen, arm and chest.

Anthony was a member of my old unit, the 10th Mountain Division, and he spent two years at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington recovering from serious wounds. Today, he has chosen to study economics at your prestigious university.

I ask you to remind the student body and faculty at Columbia University that our freedoms are not free. Perhaps some simply need to be reminded of the sacrifices of serving our nation and the values under which our troops serve.

I've been blessed with the chance to tell the incredible stories of friends and warriors who served their country with distinction. Men like "Chief" Carlson, Mike Tarlavsky, Bruce Price, and Dave Thuma. All four were Green Berets; all are heroes, all left behind loving wives and young sons. I'm committed to keeping their memory alive and opposing anyone who might disparage our nation's military service members.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Greer, PhD
Command Sergeant Major, USA (Ret)
Founder, TGF