

## Betty Boaz

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**From:** robert baer <rbaer81@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 6:15 PM  
**To:** Betty Boaz  
**Subject:** COL Chuck Rambo Memorial Support

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Dear Representative Boaz,

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to consider my input and for your efforts to honor COL Rambo with House Bill 2491. I had known Chuck since 1997 when as a major, I was assigned to Fort Drum, NY and assumed duties as the unit operations officer. Chuck was a captain at that time and served as one of my assistant operations officers. He was extremely reliable and I could depend upon him to oversee any and all training exercises and run our unit operations center all of which involved managing and making decisions in a high stress environment. Most importantly, it was Chuck with his sense of humor (often self-deprecating) that made these intense training operations bearable. Even now, after all these years, I look back on that time together and I smile. Although I was his boss, we became close friends.

It was no accident then, that I made every effort to visit his unit while we were both deployed to Afghanistan in 2008. By then I was a colonel in command of a different unit while he was a major and executive officer (second in command) of an assault helicopter unit in the 101st Airborne. Once again, although he was now managing hundreds of soldiers in a stressful combat environment, his soldiers loved him because of his calm demeanor, sense of humor, combined with his professional competence. Again more importantly, the soldiers loved him because although they were deployed in a combat zone, he made very effort to coordinate and facilitate the care of their families back home. He was always in touch with rear detachment personnel making sure that any and all concerns were addressed in a timely manner. He treated all family members as if they were an extension of his own ever growing family.

His compassion and care was extended to my own family in 2015 when my own soon was killed in an accident on the way home from his own deployment to Afghanistan. Although Chuck was extremely busy as a unit commander, he travelled to the Washington DC area for my son's funeral. It was an almost unbearable moment for my wife and I, yet seeing him unexpectedly attend did more to help us through that trying time than he will ever know. That was who Chuck was.

It was not surprising that when my wife attended his funeral, she heard from so many about his ongoing contributions not only to military families in the Fort Leavenworth community, but to local civilian communities as well. His life touched hundreds of families now scattered across the United States. You and the local communities around Highway 73 will always have our deepest and most sincere gratitude in honoring our dear friend, fellow soldier, and extended family member.

Sincerely,

COL (Ret) Robert A. Baer