

ON GOD'S WINGS

I thought I knew my parents, but I actually knew very little until my dad spent time and shared his stories and thoughts with me as I recovered from my injuries.

I thank God that I had the opportunity to really get to know my father, who is still very much alive and active today. And I'm also grateful that I found a way to honor him in a special way, not only with the writing of this book, but also with a monument that will live far beyond his years. He now has a plaque in his honor at the Mount Soledad Veterans War Memorial that stands high on a hill in La Jolla, California, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, beautiful Mission Bay and Downtown San Diego to the south, and the mountains to the east.

The Mount Soledad memorial is one of the most distinctive and unique war memorials in the United States. On this special mountain, Charles Lindbergh once soared in a glider plane, and, during World War II, a radio transmission tower helped fortify our nation's defenses. Veterans, both living and deceased, who served their country during times of war from all branches of military service are honored with individual plaques of black granite. Each plaque contains an etched photograph of the veteran with details of their military service, honors, and family remembrances.

Getting my tribute down to only two lines was no easy task... but it was a hit with "Big Jim"!

*64 combat Missions with the "Bridge Busters"
and "God as his first Pilot."*

*"Big Jim's" moral-building harmonica tunes
earned him the nickname "Hubba Dubba Man."*