

Home of the Brave



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They are eighteen of the most highly decorated soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines in the United States military, yet most Americans don't even know their names. In this riveting account, former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and Wynton C. Hall retell the stories of jaw-dropping heroism and hope coming out of Afghanistan and Iraq. Based on candid personal interviews, *Home of the Brave* takes readers beyond the bullets and battles into the hearts and minds of the men and women who are fighting terrorists overseas. These are the true-life stories of soldiers who risked everything to save lives and defend freedom. Lieutenant Colonel Mark Mitchell, the Green Beret leader whose fifteen-man Special Forces team took five hundred al Qaeda and Taliban prisoners, and posthumously repatriated the body of the first American to die in combat in the War on Terror, CIA Agent Johnny Mike Spann Army National Guard Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester, the first woman ever to be awarded the Silver Star for combat, whose sharp shooting and bravery played an enormous role in fighting off over fifty Iraqi insurgents while her ten-person squad protected a convoy of supplies on their way to fellow soldiers. Sergeant Rafael Peralta, a Mexican immigrant who enlisted in the Marines the same day he received his green card, and while wounded from enemy fire, used his body to smother the blast of an enemy grenade and gave his life so that his marine brothers could live. Giving an in-depth and personal touch to the War

on Terror, these real-life heroes remind us of American history's most enduring lesson: Ours would not be the land of the free were it not also the home of the brave.

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