

# WAR COMES HOME

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## THE LEGACY

## A Collection of Letters Written by Veterans & Their Families

**These letters offer insight into the thoughts and emotions of veterans and their families. While every member of the military has his or her own experience, there are common threads that relate to leaving home, being separated, and coming back that cross almost every major conflict in U.S. history. On the home front, families deal with the absence of and fear for their loved ones. For both veterans and their families, returning home can be both welcoming and challenging.**



**PRIVATE AL PUNTASECCA**

**KOREAN WAR | U.S. ARMY**

### LETTER TO HIS FAMILY, 1953

I'm coming home! I'm looking forward to seeing you again...but I'm in no hurry to see the expressions on your faces when you see me. You might even ask me for proof I'm your son. Don't feel bad. I see it in my own face every day. I have spent 12 months over here. The longest 30 years of my life...

You know, it's almost funny, we see a guy in a wheelchair, a guy on crutches, one arm, hooks for hands, and, we break our backs trying to help him. But, what about the wounds you can't see? The phantoms, the nightmares, the ghosts in your head? I am going to tell you now, you'll need a lot of patience with me. Patience, and understanding. We all will. See you soon...

*Photo credit: U.S. Army portrait of Private Al Puntasecca, courtesy Andrew Carroll*

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