

## **Students to Soldiers**

### **Testimony by David T. Strittmather**

During my travels as Commander for the National Sons of AMVETS, I have had the opportunity to meet with many High School students who have made the choice to enlist into the military service. Many times they are faced with the decision to give up what most of us consider normal high school events to dedicate themselves to their future service to our country. This decision should not prevent them from participating on an equal level at a later date. In most cases a practice or a game is missed so the student can meet the obligations requirements for their military duty. I strongly believe they should not be kept from participation in sporting or other school events due to missing a practice to meet their military requirements. At times, a coach is has to make the decision to have a player sit due to team policy infractions. And in some cases a player may be removed from the team. A student's involvement with military requirements should be a reason to sit out of a sporting event or be excluded from other school activities.