

## Memorials - Do you really want to know?

The camera and microphone in my face  
The reporter asks about the upcoming milestone...  
*some fictitious number minimized by the Pentagon, of those American GI's killed in Iraq*

### **"What does 1,000 mean to you?"**

Sitting beside the Arlington West Memorial on the beach in Santa Barbara...  
I look at the sea of crosses... what do I see? What do I feel?  
Too many killed. Too many wasted lives. Too many  
Mothers, Fathers, Sons, Daughters, Sisters, Brothers, Grandparents, Cousins,  
Fiances, Friends, Neighbors, Co-Workers, Classmates, *grieving!*  
What might they have created during their lives? We'll never know.  
**Not to mention the 10x more wounded & maimed & disabled.**  
*Do you really want to know?*  
Not to mention the 30x more suffering PTSD - many without hope.  
Not to mention those who have already committed suicide of despair  
Or died since they came home.  
Not to mention the tens of thousands of Iraqi's - children, women, men -  
killed and wounded. Not to mention their loved ones!  
They don't want to hear this!

### **"What does 2,000 mean to you?"**

Looking out at the array of candles at Lake Meritt,  
A picture that would spread around the world via internet.  
Parents growing old without their children.  
Children growing up without their parents.  
Mates missing their beloved. Sisters missing, Brothers missing,  
The empty spaces left in countless lives, countless families.  
The survivors guilt plaguing those left behind.  
*Do you really want to know?*  
The hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians, not to mention soldiers or "insurgents" who  
have perished or wounded.... And those lives forever lost or scarred.

### **"What does 3,000 mean to you?"**

Preparing for yet another upcoming memorial  
30-50,000 GI's, men and women, wounded... and living with those wounds the rest of their  
lives, missing arms, legs, eyes, scarred, brains traumatized, struggling just to live day to day.  
More than one million of our troops circulated through the war zone.  
They're all harmed in one way or another. Their families are harmed in one way or another.  
Most will eventually suffer PTSD, or worse.  
Tens of thousands will suicide from what they saw and did.  
*Do you really want to know more?*  
Not to mention the countless women GI's in Iraq being raped and assaulted by our own GI's!  
Do you know we have had HOMELESS IRAQ VETERANS FOR YEARS ALREADY!!!  
What about "Depleted Uranium" and our troops and the Iraqis? Their offspring? And theirs?  
**The 3,000 have it easy.**

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