



# CUMBERLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

220 N LAUREL STREET, PO BOX 677  
BRIDGETON, NJ 08302  
PHONE (856) 451-4449 FAX (856) 451-2443



Robert A. Austino  
Sheriff

Norman Franckle Jr.  
Undersheriff

Dennis D'Augustine  
Undersheriff

# COPY

TO: Whom it may concern  
FROM: S/O T. Woods #0072  
RE: Character of Eric Pizer  
DATE: December 5, 2011

My name is Tim Woods and I am writing this letter in regards to Eric Pizer. Eric and I met in April of 2001 at MOS School (Military Occupational Specialty) School in Fort Lee, Virginia and did our first tour of duty together in Kuwait in 2003. To this day, I still have open communication with Eric from time to time in an effort to maintain our friendship even with distance as a factor. I am writing to elaborate on the character of Eric based on my own personal experience and analysis of who he is to the very core of his personality. I will write only what I know of Eric and refuse to BS anyone or church him up to be Superman himself or the saint/savior of all mankind.

I am currently employed with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office in the state of New Jersey. I have been employed as a Sheriff's Officer since 2006. It has come to my understanding that Eric in fact desires to work in the capacity as a Sheriff's Deputy in the state of Wisconsin at some point in the future. On that idea alone, I could think of no other I'd rather have at my side then Eric even having no idea of his capabilities in the law enforcement field. I make my judgment based solely on his performance as a Marine. However, I am aware of his criminal record and how that could impact his desire to work in law enforcement. I can only hope that he receives a second chance at proving himself as an upstanding and law abiding citizen of this country in an effort to better himself as a man, as well as for the benefit of his family.

While serving with Eric in the Marines, it was a pleasure for me to work with him and get to know him as a person. He was a very motivated Marine who was usually among the first to volunteer for assignments whether for or against his benefit. There was no job too big or too small for Eric to accept with open arms. Even in the most extreme of conditions in a combat environment, Eric maintained his professional/motivational attitude in all scenarios that I can remember to the best of my recollection. Eric was the type of guy who didn't crack when the pressure got too heavy. If I was stuck in a fighting hole and I had to choose one marine to fight with me, it would be Eric.



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Maybe the best example of Eric's true character was shown after our first tour of duty. Eric volunteered to return to Iraq for a second tour after we returned from the first tour in Kuwait. He didn't have to go. In fact, in order to go on a second tour of duty, Eric had to extend his enlistment by two months. No one asked him to do it. He did it for one reason: Eric had four new Marines under his command who had never been in combat or to the Middle East before. Eric wanted to stick with his fire team because he didn't want the men under him to be under the direction of anyone else. Eric wanted those four Marines to be under his command because he knew that staying with his team gave them the best chance for their safe return home. Though I personally didn't share his enthusiasm, I completely understood and highly respected Eric's decision to stand by his fellow Marines, put himself in harm's way, and not allow them to go into combat without his leadership.

To this day, I believe that inner Marine still exists within Eric. He has maintained gainful employment, maintained a household, and attempted to further his education since being honorably discharged from active duty. I know personally how hard it is to transition from military life to civilian life. Therefore, I respect Eric even more to this day for the fact that he has, in my opinion, continued to walk a successful path in life up to this point.

Almost 8 years later, Eric is still haunted by the unfortunate event that transpired in a bar after returning home from his second tour in Iraq. I was made aware of the fight the same weekend it happened and was saddened by the fact. It was against every bit of the character that makes Eric who he is as a person. Although determined unnecessary after the fact, I can understand the heightened sense of self protection a person can have after returning home from a combat theater regardless of whether it's a first time, or a fifth time. There is no real excuse for Eric's actions other than the fact he made a mistake which he will in fact pay for throughout the rest of his natural life. I've been told repeatedly how much Eric says he wishes he could've been anywhere else other than at that place, on that unfortunate night. However, I don't feel a person should be crucified for the rest of their life for making what I believe to be an honest mistake in one of the most mentally challenging stages a human being can recover from.

I work with many various types of people everyday whether on the street or already behind bars that have made mistakes. I am in fact employed and will as long as society continues to make mistakes which are inevitable. I've witnessed good people do bad things and bad people do good things. One thing is always certain, people either learn from their mistakes after the first is made or continue to make mistakes. I strongly believe Eric has in fact learned from his mistake and has applied that knowledge to his path of life in a positive manner.



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In conclusion, I believe Eric has been an example to the rest of society of what the image of a successful and upstanding citizen should reflect. One unfortunate event in my professional opinion doesn't define who Eric really is. I have no doubt that he will never put himself in a position again that could jeopardize himself, his family, or his future. I stand firmly behind my opinion, judgment, and analysis of Eric's character. I would bet my paycheck and reputation as an Officer on the law on that statement. Thank you for your time in reading this letter in regard to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Woods #0072", written over a horizontal line.

S/O T. Woods # 0072