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Image 4566

Amy Haskell

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IMAGE 4566 AMY HASKELL

Custom or Crime

DAVID SIEG

“IN GOD WE TRUST”, “LIFE AND LIBERTY”,

“De Oppresso Liber” (liberate the oppressed). Are these just words to make people feel all warm and fuzzy inside? Or, do they really have a meaning? What lengths will we go through to ensure these words hold true in our hearts? I am a soldier and I have a protocol to follow. The soldier’s creed says I should place the mission first and I do, but I also took an oath to preserve life, defend my nation against all threats foreign and domestic and to uphold the laws of the United States. I am also bound by my duties as a soldier of the United States Army not to interfere in the daily lives and customs of the host nation. Iraq has her own customs and

laws. Does this mean I have to set aside my beliefs that I hold true, just to appease the powers that be? What kind of soldier, father or man would I be if I let this happen?

These words ran through my mind that morning when we stopped in a little village outside of the city of Rabiah, in the Ninawa Province, Iraq. We were on our way to Rabiah because I needed to check back with the mayor of the city. We had problems concerning insurgents crossing the border from Syria into Iraq. We stopped in this village due to an unusual gathering of female villagers. The men in the village acted as if nothing was happening. Lt. Resole, Sgt. 1st Class Naylor and myself dismounted from our vehicles and stood watching. Another soldier

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