

VETERANS DAY

ser4092 Who Is My Neighbor? Pt 2

November 14, 2021 E & L

by George Coraluzzo

HONORING OUR VETERANS



SLIDE 1: AMERICAN FLAG

Please stand for a rendition of America the Beautiful.

I was honored when Pastor Bruce asked me to speak to you today to honor our veteran's past, present and those to follow in their footsteps. You unselfishly placed your way of life on hold for freedom that we all enjoy today. Thank you for serving our great nation.

These men and women that we honor were ordinary people, like you and me, until they heard the call of duty and answered it. They left their families, their homes, their way of life, not for recognition or fame or even the honor we bestow upon them. We honor every one of our veterans. They served our great nation in time of need throughout our history, since 1775. They served in every possible job description (cooks, truck drivers, mechanics, and supply etc., to make our military the strongest force the world has ever seen. Indeed, we are a force to be reckoned with.

They served at home and in foreign lands. Many fought on the front lines to protect our country, and allowed us to maintain our way of life. Lately our world has been chaotic with social unrest. We all need to stand shoulder to shoulder to bring our great nation back together.

We must honor and respect our veterans and our flag. Their great deeds should not be blemished, and our flag that they fought for and died for

should not be desecrated by those at home and abroad who seek to destroy our freedoms. We must also remember those who are currently serving and fighting for our freedom today. They will be the veterans of tomorrow. They will continue the legacy of the American veteran. I'm not advocating force or violence to accomplish this but if it should come to that, **I for one won't run from it.** Let's just pray to God that won't happen and we will reunite.

We must always remember that freedom isn't free.

America's veterans have endured adversity, loneliness, fatigue, loss of love and relationships, loss of economic gain and many other incredible sacrifices. And yes, the ultimate sacrifice.

Veterans have served since the establishment of our nation.

Without the veterans of the American Revolution, there would not even be a United States of America. Without the veterans of the Civil War who fought on either side for what they believed, the strong united America we know today might never have been possible.

Without the veterans of all wars, since 1775, when the Continental Army was established, to the present day, we might be living in a country, in a world, where the freedom of choice we enjoy today might never have been possible.

Maybe I'm wrong (though not likely), but I tend to think we take our freedoms and what our Veterans have given us for granted. You are sitting here now because of veterans. Veterans Day should not be just another day off from work, enjoying a backyard barbeque, watching football games, a parade or listening to some old war veteran like me give a speech.

Veterans Day is **every day** for me. It has been for as long as I can remember. I don't take what we have today for granted.

There isn't a day that I don't wear some article of clothing showing the world that I'm a veteran because of the pride I have in serving our country.

I am proud to be a veteran, **a combat veteran at that**. Whenever I see another veteran, I look them in the eye and say, **“Thank you for your service.”** If the veteran is a Vietnam veteran, I say to them, **“Welcome home.”** We never got that from our country because of how things were during the Vietnam War. We never will, it’s too late. It’s up to all of us to let them know you appreciate them. When is the last time you greeted a veteran in that manner? It only takes a few seconds.

It makes my heart feel good when people come up to me and say, **“Thank you for your service”**. These people are of all ages, from young children, who hopefully learned it from their parents, to old people like me. Lol!

Some days I go out and no one ever says a word to me but I take it in stride because I know who and what I am and the service I gave to my country as every other veteran has. The lord knows that I would do it all over again.

Tomorrow we must continue to honor our veterans. They have given us the chance to live in freedom today and an opportunity to look forward to tomorrow. Don’t be just a flag waver for one day of the year. Our veterans need you every single day. Without you, many veterans will not have a tomorrow.

With very few exceptions, veterans of wars prior to Vietnam are all but gone. We Vietnam veterans are now getting to be an extinct breed, too. We are on our last journey. The median age of a Vietnam veteran is 71. I’m 77. So, I guess my journey is right around corner. It has been an awesome journey with only a few regrets.

The veterans of today are where we were 50 years ago. They are the warriors of today. They will carry on the legacy of an American veteran. It makes me all teary eyed seeing how they are returning home from wars. Thank God for the VA and so many organizations that are out there reaching veterans, helping them adjust again to civilian life which is a very hard thing to do. They carry physical and emotional scars, and they will carry them for the rest of their lives. The best way to honor our veterans is to take an active part in maintaining freedom in America. It is all of us who

must do that. We must teach future generations, our children, and our grandchildren, about what it means to be an American. Tell them what veterans have sacrificed to make our nation great.

We must volunteer in our communities and take care of veterans and their families. We must continue to try to make America the very best that it can be.

SLIDE 2: WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are so many ways you can do that:

1. Hang a flag in your yard and keep it there year-round.
2. Visit the grave sites of veterans even if you don't know them.
3. Take a small flag or flowers to the site.
4. Teach your children/grandchildren about Veterans Day.
5. Say a prayer for veterans in your devotions.
6. Do a project with your children and grandchildren with a patriotic theme.
7. Donate time, money or supplies to local veteran groups including our own military support group here at GCCC.
8. Volunteer to help a local veteran's service organization.
9. Watch a patriotic movie with family and friends.
10. Make up thank you cards with children and hang them on bulletin boards in local stores.
11. Call VA hospitals and VA homes like the one in Vineland. Ask if you may visit a veteran or ask what articles they may need and drop them off.

There are so many ways you can help. Find one and do it.

You are as important to our great county as our veterans are. They need you now more than ever. It breaks my heart remembering how we were treated when we returned from the Vietnam War. Don't treat our returning warriors today with disrespect. Welcome them with open arms.

They need you every day.

We veterans have brought a piece of the war we served in home with us. The war never ends for us.

Now is the time to not only honor those who have served and have fought for our freedom, it is time for each of us to reach out to veterans and show them we care.

Not all veterans are combat veterans, but those who served in any capacity have given of themselves to serve our nation.

Our veterans have fought to defend and serve our country since the first days of our founding. They have defeated tyrants and secured our freedom at home and abroad.

For their love of country and dedication to duty, American veterans have endured the loss of so much in their life and we honor them for their service.

Many sustained life-altering physical injuries and disabilities. Others bear the burden of emotional scars for the remainder of their lives. I can tell you, on a personal note in my life, PTSD is a real thing.

THE HISTORY OF THE WORD VETERANS

The term veteran comes from the Latin word *vetus*. It means old person who has expertise in a particular occupation or field. It was first used in the 1500's, referring to military.

Today the term veteran means a person who served in active military and who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In 1918, the signing of the armistice was the end of World War 1, referred to as The Great War.

It became known as Armistice Day in 1938 and was dedicated to the cause of world peace, to end all wars. We know that didn't happen.

In 1954 Congress amended the term armistice to veteran. November 11 is now known as Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.

SLIDE 3: OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

NOVEMBER 5TH, 1962

I, GEORGE CORALUZZO do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

THERE IS NO EXPIRATION DATE ON THAT OATH I TOOK.

June 14, 1775 was when the Oath of Allegiance was enacted during the creation of the Continental Army. Since then, everyone entering the military must swear or affirm to that oath.

SLIDE 4: MY PHOTO

VIETNAM 1965.

June 5th 1965, my outfit landed in Vietnam by helicopter, atop a hill overlooking the city of Qui Nhon. Our mission, for several months, was to conduct search and destroy missions.

SLIDE 5: PSALM 23



Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall
not want.

He maketh me to lie down in
green pastures: he leadeth me
beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth
me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death, I
will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before
me in the presence of mine
enemies: thou anointest my
head with oil; my cup runneth
over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord for ever.

The first night, mortars started falling all around us.

I hunkered down in my foxhole shaking like a leaf. I started sobbing, "Please, please make them stop. Please make them stop."

"Jesus, help me please...make them stop."

This is when I recited Psalm 23 and I felt a calm come over me. I knew right then that the Lord would watch over me

Months later my outfit was involved in a battle with the NVA.

In that one day of battle my company lost 20 men. Men that I knew. Those brave Marines held their ground till the end. They didn't run.

SLIDE 6: FALLEN BROTHERS

FALLEN BROTHERS

RICHARD ALLEN

DANIEL BRICH

RAYMOND BLANCHETTE

WILLIAM BROWN

RUPERT CARVEN

JOHN EDWARDS

ANDREW HASTING

KLAUS HERMS

HENRY HOPPER

WILLIAM HRINKO

LAWRENCE JOHNSON

WILLIAM JOHNSON

THOMAS JOHNSON

LEWIS ALPERT

FRANZ JOSEPH

VINFORD MICHAEL

HENRY ODUM

PETER SCAVUZZO

ROBERT SMITH

CHARLES WENTZEL

This is the list of the 20 Marines in my company who gave the ultimate sacrifice during that battle.

These brave Marines gave their all.

SLIDE 7: RAMBO VIDEO - WHAT VETERANS WANT

That's all we want. Love us for what we did and love those who continue to give.

God bless you, God bless our veterans, and God bless the United States of America.

Thank you!

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