

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

November 11, 2014

Issue No. 170 Mark Aites, Editor

Veterans

"The willingness of American's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude." – Jeff Miller

"While only one day of the year is dedicated solely to honoring our veterans, Americans must never forget the sacrifices that many of our fellow countrymen have made to defend our country and protect our freedoms." – Randy Neugebauer

"America's Veterans have served their country with the belief that democracy and freedom are ideals to be upheld around the world." – John Doolittle

"Since the Revolution, eight generations of America's veterans have established an unbroken commitment to freedom." – Steve Buyer

"The sanctity of our battlefields, monuments, and veterans institutions is of utmost importance to preserve military history and pay respect to those who fought." – Henry Waxman

From our hearts we salute those brave men and women who have fought to protect our freedom. As Jeff Miller rightly observed, they do have "our lasting gratitude."

For a moment, there are some other veterans that also need our gratitude. While we are thankful for our armed forces, and rightly so, there are also veterans in God's army.

The Hebrew writer realized this when he penned that he was "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Heb. 12:1). One marvels at their faith, that they were worthy to be recognized in that great number of the faithful.

And what of the veterans of the cross of Christ? Men and women who sacrificed a great deal to follow our Lord, even to the point of death. Their faith is an encouragement to us to persevere.

There are so many soldiers of the cross that this writer has to thank, for their dedication, service, and commitment to Christ. Men such as Guy N. Woods, Franklin Camp, Gus Nichols, J. Winfred Clark, Marshall Keeble, Bill Nicks, etc. It is hard to put into words the feelings of gratitude for their selfless desire to serve our Lord and Master.

Drawing from that beautiful picture of Hebrews 12, one can picture them cheering us on to complete what we have started. There is such a peace and solace that comes from such a thought. If they could do it, surely we can too.

There are the words of our Lord to the church at Smyrna that ring in the ears, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

As you give thank for our veterans, let this serve as an encouragement to be thankful for our veterans of the cross as well.

