

Forgotten Heroes

Dan Nelson - pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

This week we give tribute to our many men and women that have served their country in uniform; individuals who understand a high sense of duty and sacrifice for the purpose of a greater good and to the benefit of us all. Whether overseas or back at home, in time of war or in peace, this unique brand of Americans have provided that basis of safety and security that protect us and our children from many of the ailments that exist in other parts of the world today. We acknowledge all of our veterans for what you have done for us, and thank God for you today.

Among the many who have proudly served in various capacities of our military, there are certain citizens that could be listed among our forgotten heroes. Unfortunately, due to complications and controversies in the political spectrum, and various viewpoints on particular policies, some of our most faithful among our fighting forces are sometimes brushed aside and, on occasion, even scorned. In their ranks, some have been permanently maimed or even paid the ultimate price. For whatever this writing may be worth to those who read it, I want to publicly acknowledge gratitude to all that have put themselves in harms way in answer to the call to defend this country and our values and freedoms.

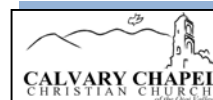
There is another warrior that I am considering today that is often trivialized due to blurred perspectives in worldviews. This person entered into the zone of danger and did not choose an easier path for himself. He neither shirked his role nor stood down in the face of tyranny. He plunged forward until freedom was purchased at the expense of his own life. He was motivated by love for the

people that he was sacrificed for. As victor and emancipator, he too deserves our honor. But since His cause was not localized, nor merely emancipation to pursue my lifestyle choices, but liberation for my eternal soul, He is marginalized into a special category we have created called "religion".

The Bible says to give honor to whom honor is due. Our veterans have earned that place in our society and we have a responsibility to recognize this. Similarly, Jesus, conqueror over death and champion unto eternity, warrants our authentic response. Jesus may be our most forgotten hero.

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Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



P.O. Box 1443
Ojai, CA 93024
(805) 640-9498
www.calvaryojai.org

Sunday Worship:

9:00 & 10:30am
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

Mid-Week Study:

7:00pm Thursday
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

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