

Being on the Front Line

Sir William Wallace (1270 – 1305) was a Scottish knight who became one of the main leaders during the Wars of Scottish Independence.



Along with Andrew Moray, Wallace defeated an English army at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. He was appointed Guardian of Scotland and served until his defeat at the Battle of Falkirk in July 1298. In August 1305, he was captured near Glasgow and handed over to King Edward I of England, who had him hanged, drawn and quartered for high treason and crimes against English civilians.

Wallace won the respect of his army of Scottish commoners by being on the front line of every battle they fought. The same commoners despised the fur-clad Scottish lords because they sat in the rear on horseback, never straining themselves with the soil or blood of battle.

In war or peace – or in the life of business, government, education, health care or the church – sacrifice is the admission price to the ranks of leadership.

Leadership manifests itself in any discipline of our service industry, whether it be administration, social services, certified nursing assistants, admissions coordinators, RNs, LPNs, housekeeping, laundry, activities, food service – the list goes on and on. We prefer to call it servant leadership, and those who practice it demonstrate sacrifice of energy, time, talents and resources in the care of those entrusted to them.

Their stories are told and repeated, and examples are shown in Life Care's *Whatever It Takes And then Some* and Century Park's *Going the Extra Mile* programs. Such leadership demands attention.

Everyone leads someone. What kind of example are you and I providing for those we lead in our mission of service?

We should examine our own habits from time to time. Remember: From the pattern comes the product.

Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity (1 Timothy 4:12 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter