

AN OLD SOLDIER'S PRAYER

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur (1880 – 1964) was an American general and field marshal of the Philippine Army. He was a Chief of Staff of the United States Army during the 1930s and played a prominent role in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He received the Medal of Honor for his service in the Philippines Campaign.

Arthur MacArthur Jr. and Douglas MacArthur were the first father and son to each be awarded the medal. Douglas MacArthur was one of only five men ever to rise to the rank of General of the Army in the U.S. Army and the only man ever to become a field marshal of the Philippine Army.



MacArthur's prayer on behalf of his son is worthy of reflection:

“Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid; one who will be proud and unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory.

“Build me a son whose wishes will not take the place of deeds; a son who will know Thee ... and that to know himself is the foundation stone of knowledge.

“Build me a son whose heart will be clear, whose goal will be high, a son who will master himself before he seeks to master other men; one who will reach into the future, yet never forget the past.

“And after all these things are his, add, I pray, enough of a sense of humor, so that he may always be serious, yet never take himself too seriously. Give him humility, so that he may always remember the simplicity of true greatness, the open mind of true wisdom and the meekness of true strength.

“Then I, his father, will dare to whisper, ‘I have not lived in vain.’”

For any who are parents, this would be a fitting prayer for a son or a daughter.

– Beecher Hunter