

Rip in a Spacesuit

While visiting a space exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., Princess Anne was introduced to Neil Armstrong. Later, during her tour, she noticed a display of astronauts' spacesuits.

Turning to Armstrong, she asked, "Is there any danger of a rip?"

The man who had taken great risks in being the first to walk on the moon replied: "Yes, the difference between life and death up there is only about one-hundredth of an inch of rubber!"

As I see what happens in the families of friends and acquaintances – automobile accidents, drownings, house fires, strokes, heart attacks – and every time I tour through one of our nursing centers, I am reminded afresh that life is a fragile gift from God. Realizing the brevity of his time upon this earth, King David wrote in the Psalms, "Lord, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am" (Psalm 39:4).

Having that awareness will motivate us to live each day in a meaningful and productive way – obeying God by serving others; in the case of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home, our residents become an awesome responsibility He has entrusted to us.

In so doing, at the end of our lives, whenever that may be, we can look back on days of purpose and joy in the fulfillment of God's plan for us.

--Beecher Hunter