

The War Gets Personal

Today is Veterans Day, and we only have to look at the events of the world at this moment to realize the depth of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform in the past as we see the dedication of our troops in the present.

Oftentimes, it gets very personal.

Valerie Nichols is a Life Care associate, working in the Media Resource Group. Her fiancé is Steve Zahn, a Marine presently in the thick of the fighting for control of Fallujah in Iraq. He reported to Valerie Wednesday that U.S. forces and their allies have rooted out about 70 percent of the terrorists in that city through fierce fighting. He remains in harm's way.

Valerie and Steve were to be married in December, but his stay was extended and their wedding was put on hold. Pray for Steve, and for all of our military men and women who represent us and the cause of freedom around the world. They are the true heroes -- not overpaid athletes or rock stars or Hollywood actors -- but our freedom fighters.

America is the great nation that it is because of the sacrifices of our veterans, spilling their blood so that we might enjoy liberty and the pursuit of happiness. "Americans live in freedom because of our veterans' courage, dedication to duty, and love of country. On this Veterans Day, we honor these brave men and women who have served in our Armed Forces and defended our nation," President George W. Bush said in a proclamation.

Across America, there are more than 25 million veterans. We owe them our thanks and appropriate recognition for their duty and honor of our nation.

--Beecher Hunter