

September 14, 1944 on the Crozon Peninsula (western part of France):

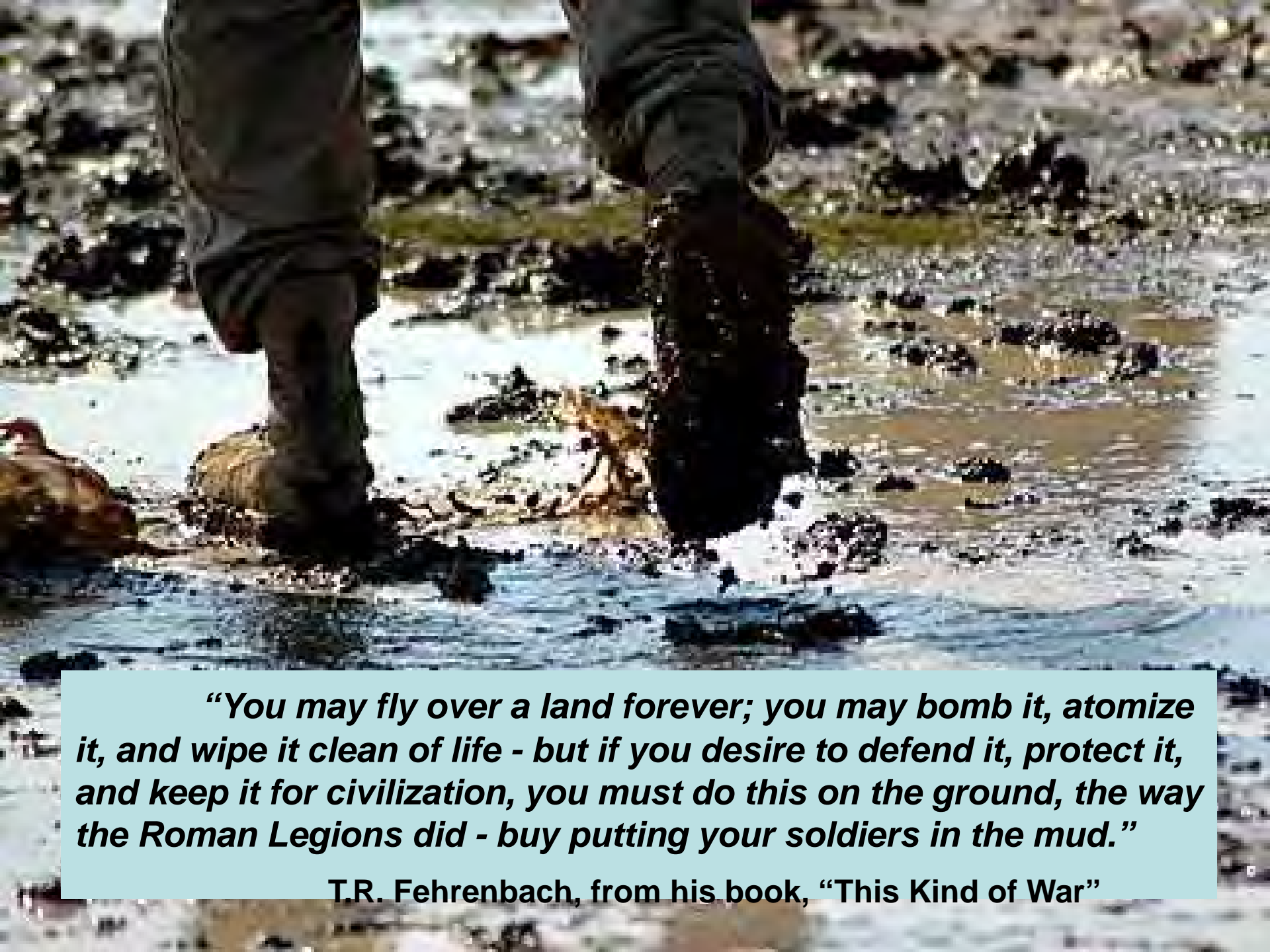
"I am to surrender to you," German LtGen Ramcke told BG Canham, Assistant Division Commander, 8th ID, through his own interpreter. **"I want to see your credentials".** BG Canham pointed to the eager dogfaces crowding the entrance with their M-1s. **"These are my credentials".** This blunt phrase put the Nazi in his place, and paid dramatic tribute to the real power behind America's Army — the G.I.





“The ultimate determinant in war is a man on the scene with a gun. This man is the final power in war. He is control, he determines who wins. There are those who would dispute this as an absolute, but it is my belief that while other means may critically influence war today, after whatever devastation and destruction may be inflicted on an enemy, if the strategist is forced to strive for final and ultimate control, he must establish, or must present as an inevitable prospect, a man on the scene with a gun. This is the Soldier.”

Rear Admiral Wylie, U.S. Navy, World War II



“You may fly over a land forever; you may bomb it, atomize it, and wipe it clean of life - but if you desire to defend it, protect it, and keep it for civilization, you must do this on the ground, the way the Roman Legions did - buy putting your soldiers in the mud.”

T.R. Fehrenbach, from his book, “This Kind of War”



"I'd rather go down the river with seven studs than with a hundred shitheads"

Colonel Charlie Beckwith, founder & CMDR of Delta Force



“American soldiers in battle don’t fight for what some president says on T.V., they don’t fight for mom, apple pie, the American flag...they fight for one another.”

LTC Hal Moore, CMDR 1/7 Cav, Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam



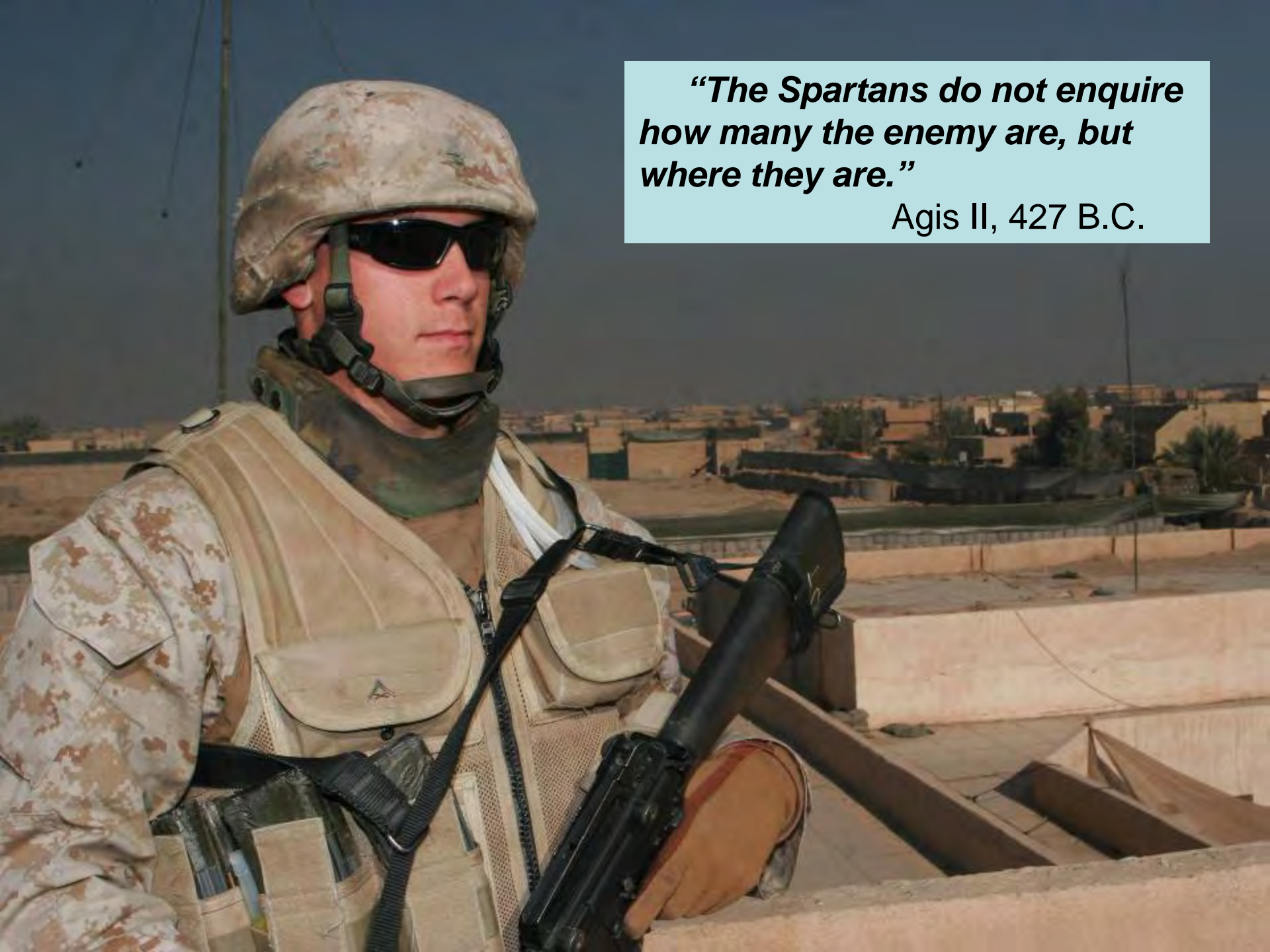
“If you’re going to go to war against a major enemy, go; knock the hell out of him fast, and go in there to kill him and get it over with.”

Lieutenant General (Ret) Harold Moore



"In this business, you find the enemy, then go after and destroy him. Everything else is rubbish!"

Eddie Rickenbacker, American WWI Flying Ace



***“The Spartans do not enquire
how many the enemy are, but
where they are.”***

Agis II, 427 B.C.



This is the law:

The purpose of fighting is to win.

There is no possible victory in defense.

The sword is more important than the shield and skill is more important than either.

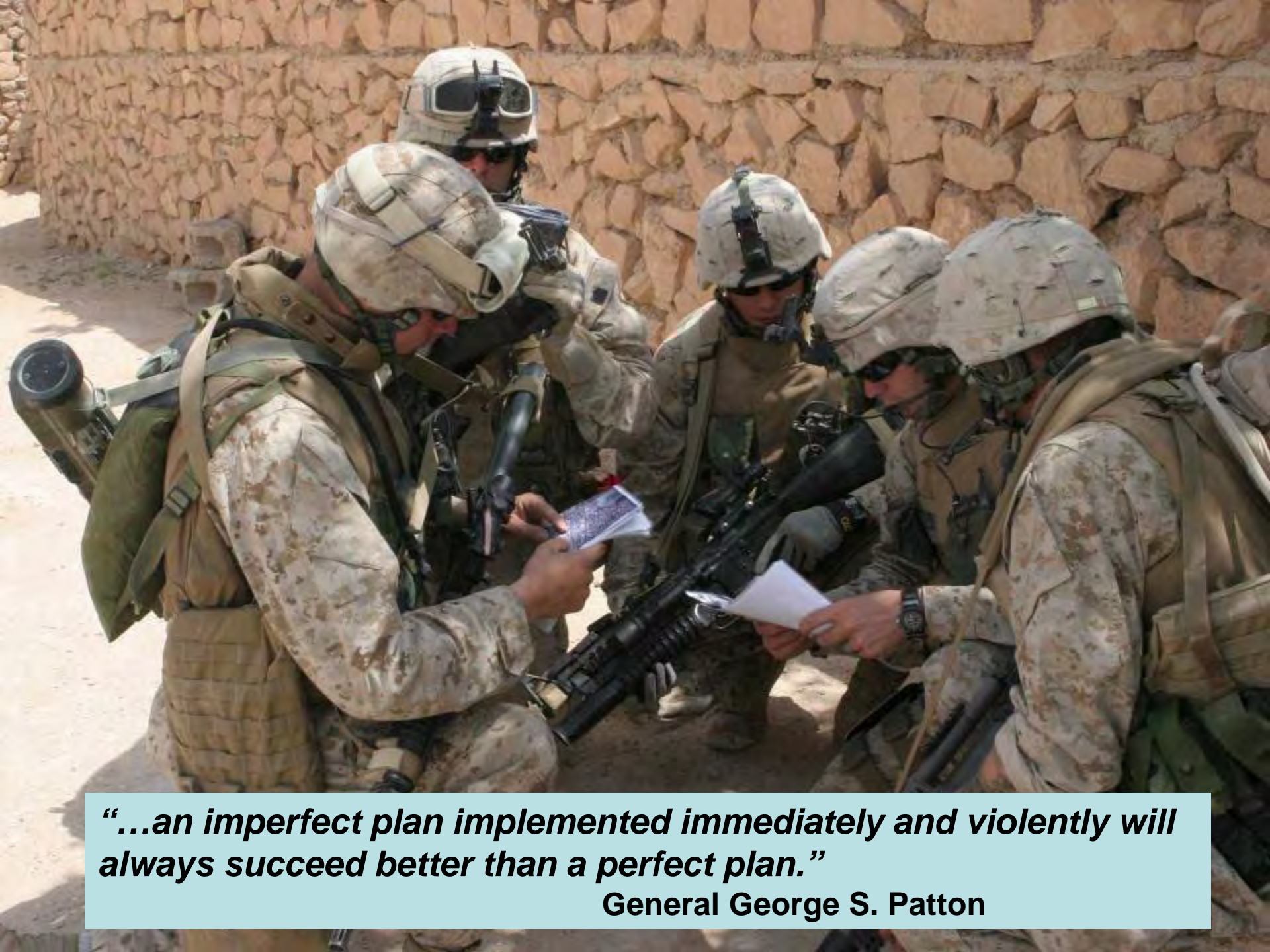
The final weapon is the brain. All else is supplemental.

John Steinbeck



"May God have mercy upon my enemies, because I won't."

General George S. Patton Jr.



“...an imperfect plan implemented immediately and violently will always succeed better than a perfect plan.”

General George S. Patton



“The Soldiers of TF 2-7 IN rose to the occasion. All of the values their mothers and fathers and grandparents taught them, they learned. They stepped up to the plate. They did not just follow their leaders, they ACCOMPANIED their leaders. Sometimes, they LED the way! They said, “Sir, the enemy’s over there ... don’t worry, we’ll get you there!”

LTC Scott Rutter, Commander, TF 2-7 IN, May 15, 2003



“I LIKE MARINES, BECAUSE BEING A MARINE IS SERIOUS BUSINESS. WE'RE NOT A SOCIAL CLUB OR A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION AND WE DON'T PRETEND TO BE ONE. WE'RE A BROTHERHOOD OF "WARRIORS" -- NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS, PURE AND SIMPLE. WE ARE IN THE ASS-KICKING BUSINESS, AND UNFORTUNATELY, THESE DAYS BUSINESS IS GOOD.

COLONEL JAMES. M. LOWE, COMMANDER, MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, 2004

"We win here or lose everywhere; if we win here, we improve the chances of winning everywhere."

General MacArthur, Korean War





“Your job is to point that rifle into the other guy’s face and shoot him dead.”

General Matthew Ridgeway, instructions to his troops, Korean War, 1950



"Somewhere a True Believer is training to kill you. He is training with minimum food or water, in austere conditions, day and night. The only thing clean on him is his weapon. He doesn't worry about what workout to do---his rucksack weighs what it weighs, and he runs until the enemy stops chasing him. The True Believer doesn't care 'how hard it is'; he knows he either wins or he dies. He doesn't go home at 1700; he is home. He knows only the 'Cause.' Now, who wants to quit?"

NCOIC of the Special Forces Assessment and Selection Course in a welcome speech to new SF candidates



“I don't mind being called tough, because in this racket it's the tough guys who lead the survivors.”

General Curtis LeMay, USAF

“We have funny things that happen. I can remember standing in a land fill in southern Iraq where we began one of our attacks, and watching my guys so tired from lack of sleep....literally fall on the ground, with their gear on, on top of each other. I then watched "my boys" swat flies for each other, guard each other, share water with each other, offer food for those that did not have any chow, express their disdain for the trash heap that was our home, all the while ready to do battle and if necessary die for each other. I saw with my own eyes the actual creation of the closeness and bond that historians write about in times of war amongst fighting men.”

1LT John G. Gibson, 82nd Airborne Division, Baghdad, Iraq





“People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf”
George Orwell



“In the final measure, nothing speaks like deeds”

General John A. Wickham, Jr.



When we do our jobs, people shoot at us



“When in war, men must die, they can’t be managed to their deaths, they must be led.”

Colonel Dandridge “Mike” Malone, US Army, Infantry



“But to the fighting soldier that phase of the war is behind. It was left behind after his first battle. His blood is up. He is fighting for his life, and killing now for him is as much a profession as writing is for me.”

Ernie Pyle



“Understanding future warfare is the most important responsibility of those who must defend a nation from future enemies!”
Major General Perry M. Smith



"You cannot exaggerate about the Marines. They are convinced to the point of arrogance, that they are the most ferocious fighters on earth- and the amusing thing about it is that they are."

Father Kevin Keaney, 1st MarDiv Chaplain, Korean War



"Every morning, I get up, get out of bed, and get on my knees and thank God for waking up in America ... (She is) the light of the world ... A nation of heroes ... The real stars are wearing body armor on top of their battle dress uniforms in 130 degree heat and they do not have stunt doubles to come in for them when the going gets rough and the bullets and the shrapnel start flying. They are the real stars, fighting terrorism and trying to free a nation."

Ben Stein



"When you men get home and face an anti-war protester, look him in the eyes and shake his hand. Then, wink at his girlfriend, because she knows she's dating a pussy."

Attributed to General Tommy Franks



“THERE COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE 71 VIRGINS AWAITING THEM IN HEAVEN – BECAUSE AS OUR HYMN SAYS “THE STREETS ARE GUARDED BY UNITED STATES MARINES!”

US Marine, Iraq



"What is a hero? My heroes are the young men who faced the issues of war and possible death, and then weighed those concerns against obligations to their country. Citizen-soldiers, who interrupted their personal and professional lives at their most formative stage, in the timeless phrase of the Confederate Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, 'not for fame of reward, not for place or for rank, but in simple obedience to duty, as they understood it.'" Senator James Webb (D-VA) & Former Secretary of the Navy



"The soldier is the centerpiece of all our units. Most effective, flexible and adaptable asset we possess. Rapidly retasked from combat to stability operations to homeland defense. Best sensor: receives and processes information better than any technology. Face of the United States overseas. Everything we do is designed to support the soldier." Army G-3, General Cody, February 2005

"My first wish would be that my military family, and the whole Army, should consider themselves as a band of brothers, willing and ready to die for each other."

General George Washington



SGT Shields SPC Velez

"We're here today to pay tribute to two great soldiers; to two great Americans. I am 100 percent convinced we will win this war because we have soldiers like Sgt. Shields and Spc. Velez, and the enemy does not. The enemy has no response for sergeants that risk everything to rescue their injured comrades only to immediately return to the fight. The enemy has no answer to soldiers standing over their injured buddies, even when it means their own lives, so that others will live. Because of that, we will win."

LTC James Rainey, CDRM (pictured left), 2/7th Cavalry Regt., Camp Taji, Iraq, Nov 27, 2004
SGT Jonathan B. Shields and SPC Jose A. Velez, both gave their lives while rescuing others.



“I do not love the bright sword for it's sharpness, nor the arrow for it's swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend”

J R Tolkien



“There are only two types of warriors in this world. Those that serve tyrants and those that serve free men”

Special Forces NCO Stefan Mazak



“The patriot volunteer, fighting for country and his rights, makes the most reliable soldier on earth.”

Thomas J. Jackson



“Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer.”

LTC Jimmy Doolittle, WWII



"An unarmed man can only flee from evil, and evil is not overcome by fleeing from it."

Jeff Cooper



"Hate war, but love the American Warrior."

LTG Harold G. Moore (Ret.)

“The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.”

General Douglas MacArthur

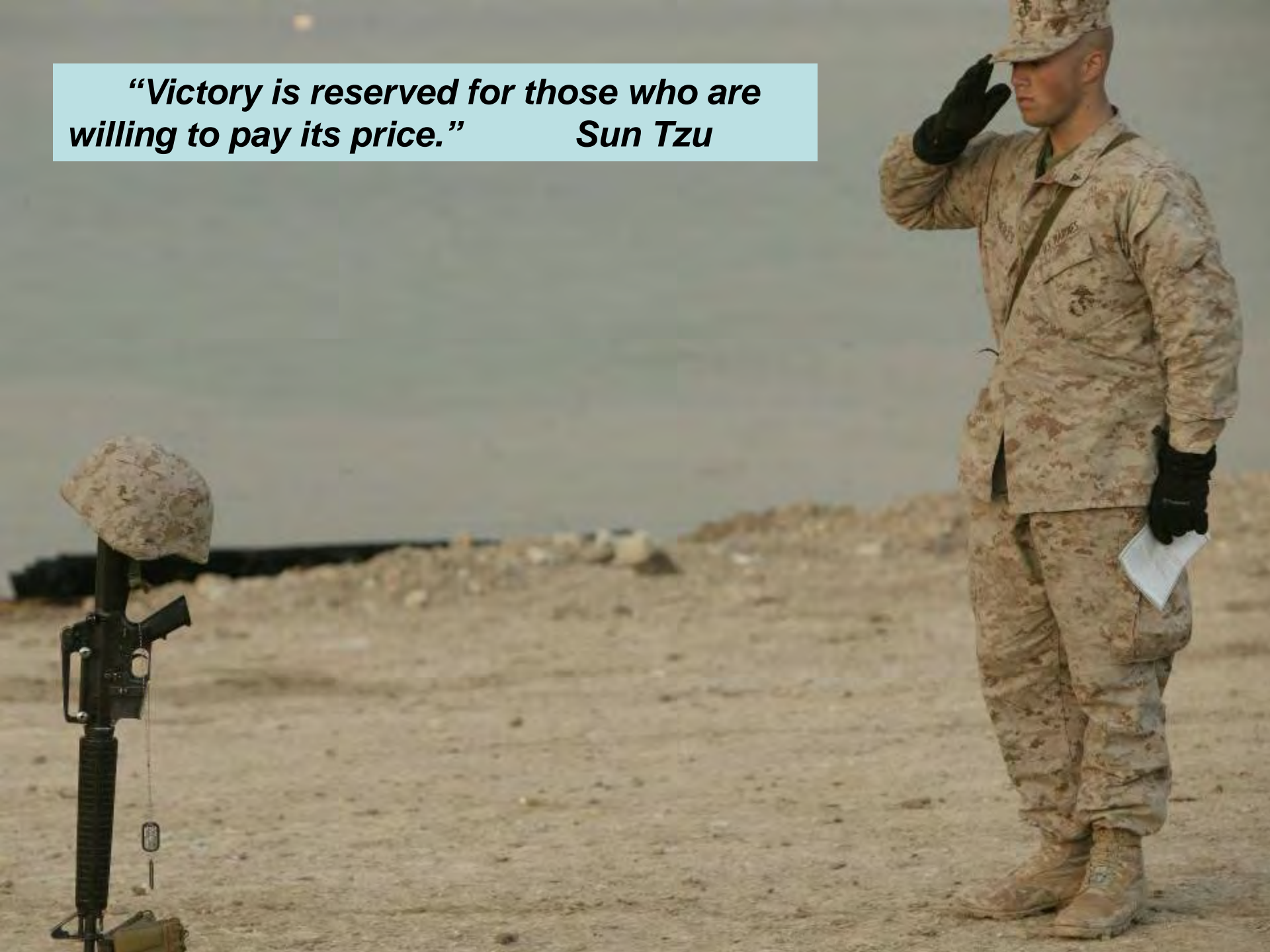




“War is cruel and you cannot refine it.”

General William Tecumseh Sherman, US Civil War, 1864

“Victory is reserved for those who are willing to pay its price.” Sun Tzu





“We gave each of our fallen comrades a fitting memorial and mourned their loss. Each time, I knew these heroes left wives, husbands, children and other loved ones behind. They were all volunteers and each had their reasons for joining the Army and defending their country. They all had great plans for the future, but none of them had planned on dying in combat. These soldiers will never see their children graduate from high school, will never attend their weddings, will never coach their little league baseball teams.”

Colonel Ted Spain, Brigade Commander who had 13 KIAs from his unit, OIF, Feb 2004



“Heart is what makes the American Soldier”
SFC Barbara Ray, 1993



“The world is witnessing first hand, live on television, the hearts of American warriors -- and the spirit and pride only displayed by magnificent young men and women who are volunteers in the fight for the cause of freedom. It's all about heart.”

Colonel. A.J. Stewart, 71st Flying Training Wing commander, 2004



Immediately after a bombing in Baghdad, June 2007, which killed at least 21 people and injured at least 66 was a shooter, maybe targeting people in the crowd. Amid all the Iraqis who are running from the gunfire was a U.S. soldier, standing tall, perhaps looking in the direction of the gunshots, not apparently looking for cover. An Iraqi boy seeks shelter behind the soldier, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. The first picture shows it all. The kid's face shows he is scared to death, and he's running to the safest spot he can find: this soldier who stands between him and danger. It would be difficult to stage a picture that provides a more potent metaphor for the role played by United States in this wretched world.

“Where there is one brave man, in the thickest of the fight, there is the post of honor.”

Henry David Thoreau



"Where do we get guys like this the reporter asked? The answer is as simple as it is profound. You give them to us. You parents, you families, you brothers and sisters, grandparents, uncles and aunts, friends, you loan us these wonderful young people. They are the fruit of our country, raised by caring parents or a single parent, nurtured in love, and taught that Americans are supposed to have concern for the rights, freedoms and needs of not only our own citizens, but the citizens of the world ... The credit for their goodness, and their greatness, rests with all of you back home. The mothers, the fathers, husbands, wives, all of the family members, all the friends, the teachers, the preachers, scout leaders, football coaches, volunteer youth workers of all sorts, each person who had a positive impact on the lives of these young people deserves a piece of the credit."

Colonel Ron Smith, US Army, From, "The war in Iraq, what the media doesn't tell you," The Meridien Star, March 9, 2005



“Be ashamed to die until you have done something good for mankind.”

American pastor Dr. Vernon Johnson during the Revolutionary War



“I remind you again we had those elections [in Afghanistan and Iraq] because we had boots on the ground and we had people that could help people, and we had people on the ground that could get into somebody’s face when they had to, and do whatever was required.”

General Peter J. Schoomaker, April 11, 2005

AND WHEN HE GETS TO HEAVEN,
TO SAINT PETER HE WILL TELL:

"JUST ANOTHER SOLDIER REPORTING, SIR,
HE LOSEVED MY TIME IN HELL."

"If you're going through hell, keep going."
Winston Churchill

"Urge all of your men to pray, not alone in church, but everywhere. Pray when driving. Pray when fighting. Pray alone. Pray with others. Pray by night and pray by day. Pray for the cessation of immoderate rains, for good weather for Battle. Pray for the defeat of our wicked enemy whose banner is injustice and whose good is oppression. Pray for victory. Pray for our Army, and Pray for Peace. We must march together, all out for God."

George S. Patton Jr.





“My Pledge. America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, and I will endure. I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone.”

Handwritten note found in the diary of US Army Private Martin Treptow, France, WWI. Killed by artillery fire, later that day, his comrades were able to go out after him to recover his body, and to recover his personal belongings that were to be returned to his family, which included his diary with the above pledge.



“I asked a World War II veteran why he fought. He said, ‘I was 18 years old. I knew the difference between right and wrong. I didn’t want to live in a world where wrong prevailed...so I fought.’”

Dr. Steven E. Ambrose, remarks at the dedication of the National D-Day Museum, June 6, 2000



“If a man hasn't discovered something that he would die for, he isn't fit to live.”

Martin Luther King Jr.



"A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself." John Stuart Mill



"It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man stumbled or how the doer of deeds might have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with sweat and dust and blood; who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who if he wins knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, if fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."
Theodore Roosevelt, April 1910



“There are really two wars and they haven’t much to do with each other. There is the war of maps and logistics, of campaigns, of ballistics, armies, divisions and regiments – and that is General George Marshall’s war. Then there is the war of the homesick, weary, funny, violent, common men who wash their socks in their helmets, complain about the food, whistle at the Arab girls, or any girls for that matter, and bring themselves through as dirty a business as the world has ever seen and do it with humor and dignity and courage – and that is Ernie Pyle’s war.”

John Steinbeck, Noble Prize winning author, 1945



“I am a soldier, I fight where I am told, and I win where I fight.”

General George Patton Jr.



"Pray not for lighter burdens but for stronger backs."

Theodore Roosevelt



"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing"

Edmund Burke (1729-1797), British statesman and philosopher



“The ultimate determinant in war is a man on the scene with a gun. This man is the final power in war. He is control, he determines who wins. There are those who would dispute this as an absolute, but it is my belief that while other means may critically influence war today, after whatever devastation and destruction may be inflicted on an enemy, if the strategist is forced to strive for final and ultimate control, he must establish, or must present as an inevitable prospect, a man on the scene with a gun. This is the Soldier.” Rear Admiral Wylie, U.S. Navy, World War II



“The rifle itself has no moral stature, since it has no will of its own. Naturally, it may be used by evil men for evil purposes, but there are more good men than evil, and while the latter cannot be persuaded to the path of righteousness by propaganda, they can certainly be corrected by good men with rifles.”

Jeff Cooper, “The Art of the Rifle“, 1997

“Dear Dad, It is incredibly humbling to walk among such men. They fought as hard as any Marines in history and deserve to be remembered as such. The enemy they fought burrowed into houses and fired through mouse holes cut in walls, lured them into houses rigged with explosives and detonated the houses on pursuing Marines, and actually hid behind surrender flags only to engage the Marines with small arms fire once they perceived that the Marines had let their guard down. I know of several instances where near dead enemy rolled grenades out on Marines who were preparing to render them aid. It was a fight to the finish in every sense and the Marines delivered. My whole life I have read about the greatest generation and sat in wonder at their accomplishments. For the first time, as I watch these Marines and Soldiers, I am eager for the future as this is just the beginning for them. Perhaps the most amazing characteristic of all is that the morale of the men is sky high. They hurt for the wounded and the dead but they are eager to continue to attack. Further, not one of them would be comfortable with being called a hero even though they clearly are.” Letter home on the close combat in Fallujah, from Dave, a US Marine - Nov 19, 2004



“A conglomerate mass of Americans gathered from all walks of life who had been shaped into a cohesive organization for the purpose of performing certain military tasks, the unit was ... not simply the place where members lived and worked, ate and slept, the unit was the Soldier’s family.”

A description of the squads, platoons, and companies of the 291st Engineer Combat Battalion, WWII





"An army is a team. It lives, eats, sleeps, fights as a team. This individuality stuff is a bunch of bullshit."

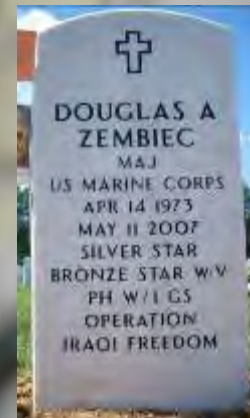
General George Patton Jr.



“We're Marines, we took Iwo Jima, Baghdad ain't shit.”

Attributed to BG John F. Kelly, Asst Division Cmdr, 1st Marine Div, Iraq, 2003

This is a picture of Major Zembiec taken in April 2004 taken during the first Battle of Fallujah, Iraq



"Be a man of principle. Fight for what you believe in. Keep your word. Live with integrity. Be brave. Believe in something bigger than yourself. Serve your country. Teach. Mentor. Give something back to society. Lead from the front. Conquer your fears. Be a good friend. Be humble and be self-confident. Appreciate your friends and family. Be a leader and not a follower. Be valorous on the field of battle. Take responsibility for your actions."

These words from Major Douglas Zembiec were taken from his combat journal under the title *"Principles my father taught me"*. Major Zembiec was Killed In Action, May 11, 2007, during his fourth tour of duty in Iraq, during a raid against insurgent forces. He was nicknamed the ***"Lion of Fallujah"*** while serving as the Commander of Echo Company, 2nd Bn, 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division during the April 2004 Battle of Fallujah after he told reporters, ***"My Marines have fought like lions and will continue to do so. Ten million insurgents won't even begin to fill the boots of one of my men."*** He is survived by his wife Pamela, 1-year old daughter Fallyn Justice, parents Donald and Jo Ann, his brother John, the Marine Corps and the United States of America.



“These Americans are not like the ones before. They stay and fight. Wherever they go they create death; they are death walkers.”

Taliban fighter captured in Afghanistan in June 2002



“There's this quote about, ‘No one prays for peace more desperately than the fighting man, nor does anyone fight so hard to preserve it.’ It's possibly the strangest paradox I've encountered, but I'd never doubt its truth.”



“Except for ending slavery, genocide, Fascism, Nazism, and Communism, war has never solved anything.”

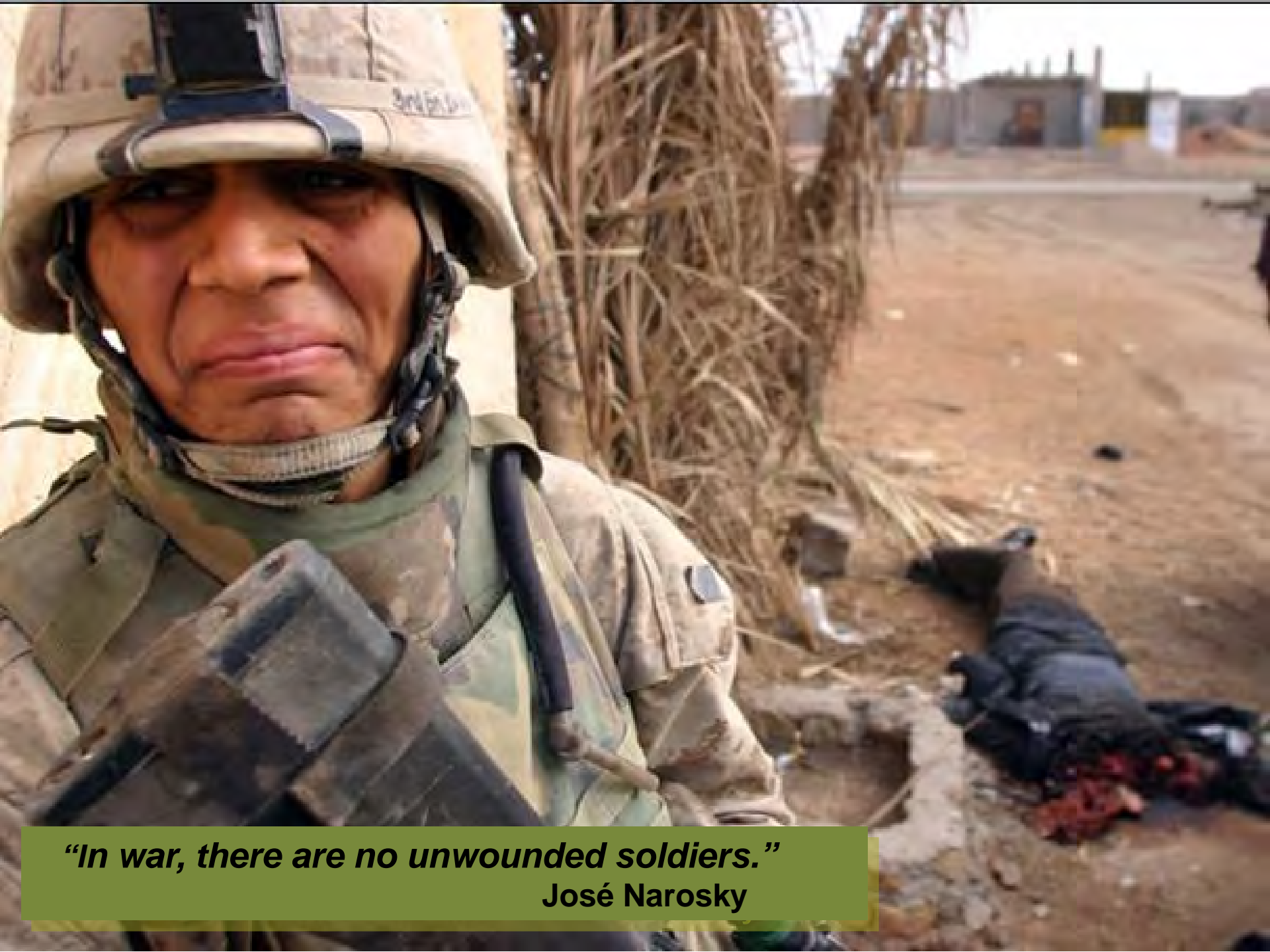


***“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”
Matthew 5:9***



"The best medal is a live man's smile"

Unofficial Creed of many Combat Medics



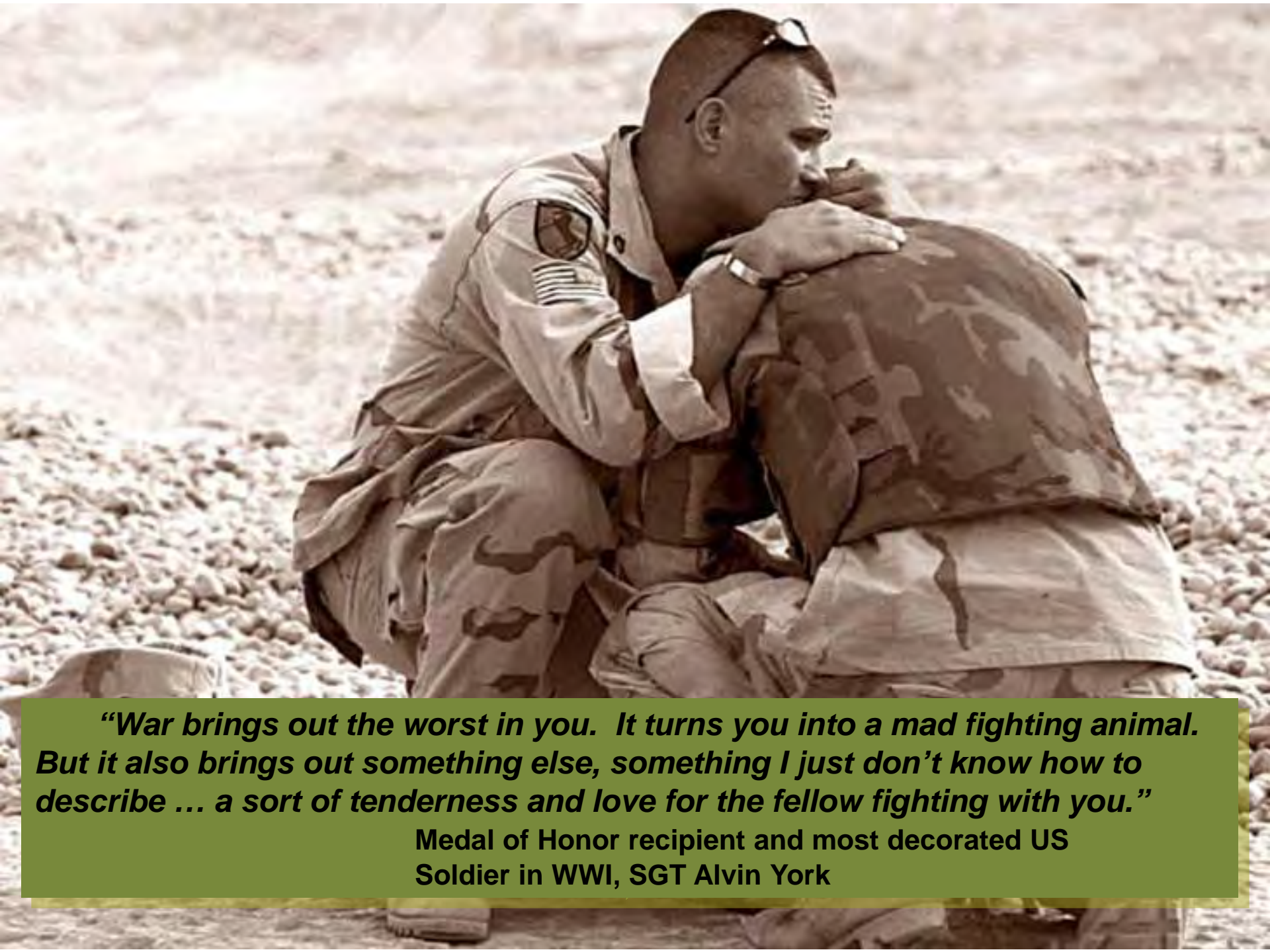
“In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.”

José Narosky



“Humans are more important than hardware” “SOF cannot be mass produced” “Competent SOF cannot be created after emergencies occur” “Quality is better than quantity”

US Special Operations Forces (SOF) Poster, seen in Iraq



“War brings out the worst in you. It turns you into a mad fighting animal. But it also brings out something else, something I just don’t know how to describe ... a sort of tenderness and love for the fellow fighting with you.”

**Medal of Honor recipient and most decorated US
Soldier in WWI, SGT Alvin York**

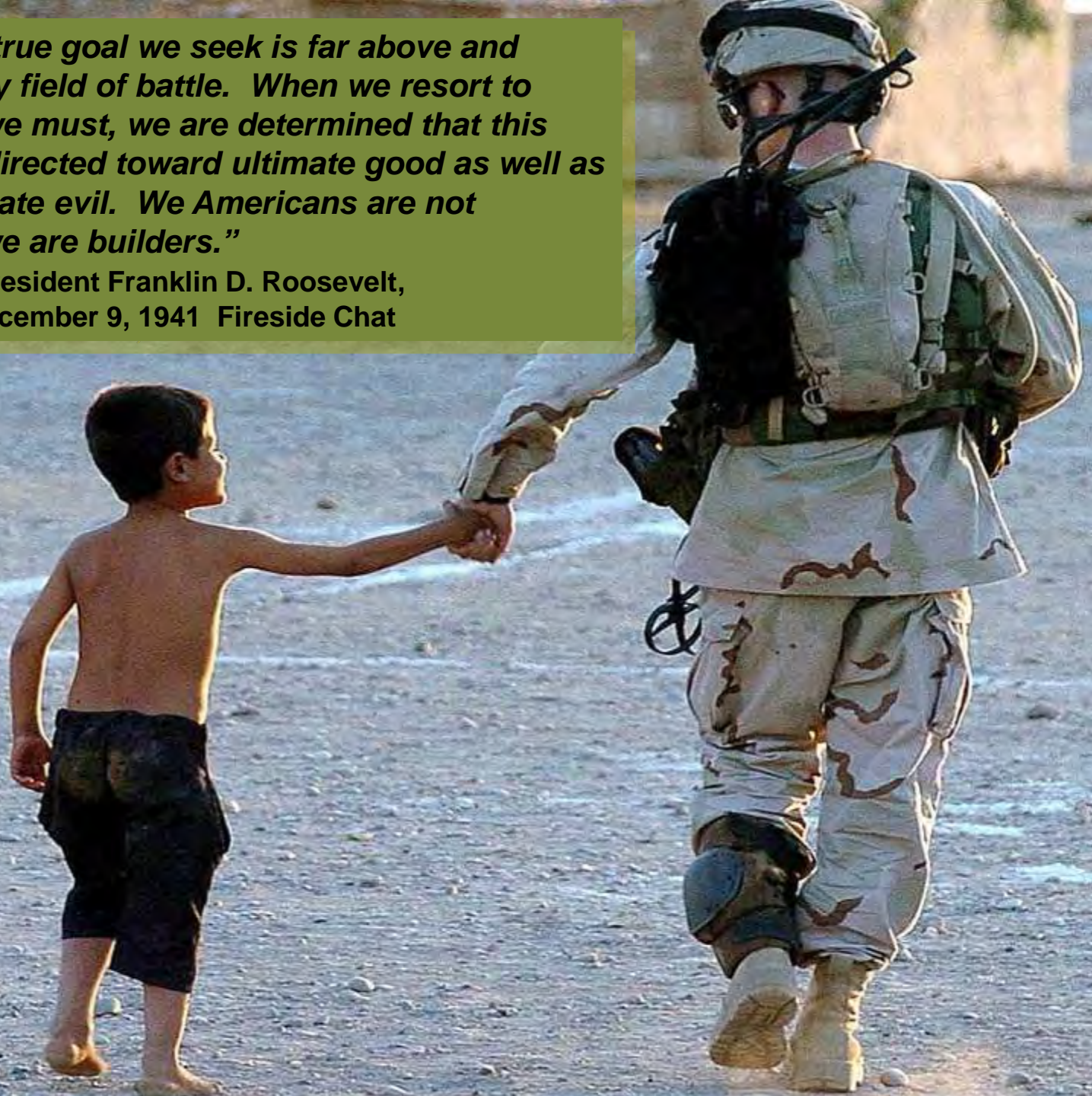


"Our GIs are the best ambassadors America has ever had."

Colonel Carl E. Mundy, III, USMC, Commander, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Col Mundy stated further that he believes the difficult victories of today's war "are won in the human heart"

“The true goal we seek is far above and beyond the ugly field of battle. When we resort to force, as now we must, we are determined that this force shall be directed toward ultimate good as well as against immediate evil. We Americans are not destroyers - - we are builders.”

**President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
December 9, 1941 Fireside Chat**





“The strength of the wolf is the pack, the strength of the pack is the wolf.” **Rudyard Kipling**

"Our cruel and unrelenting enemy leaves us only the choice of a brave resistance, or the most abject submission. We have, therefore, to resolve to conquer or to die."

General George Washington





“If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.”

Thomas Paine (1737-1809)



"Americans, indeed all free men, remember that in the final choice, a soldier's pack is not so heavy a burden as a prisoner's chains." President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1st Inaugural Address, 20 Jan 1953



“Day by day, fix your eyes upon the greatness of Athens, until you become filled with the love of her; and when you are impressed by the spectacle of her glory, reflect that this empire has been acquired by men who knew their duty and had the courage to do it.”

Thucydides, The Funeral Speech for Pericles

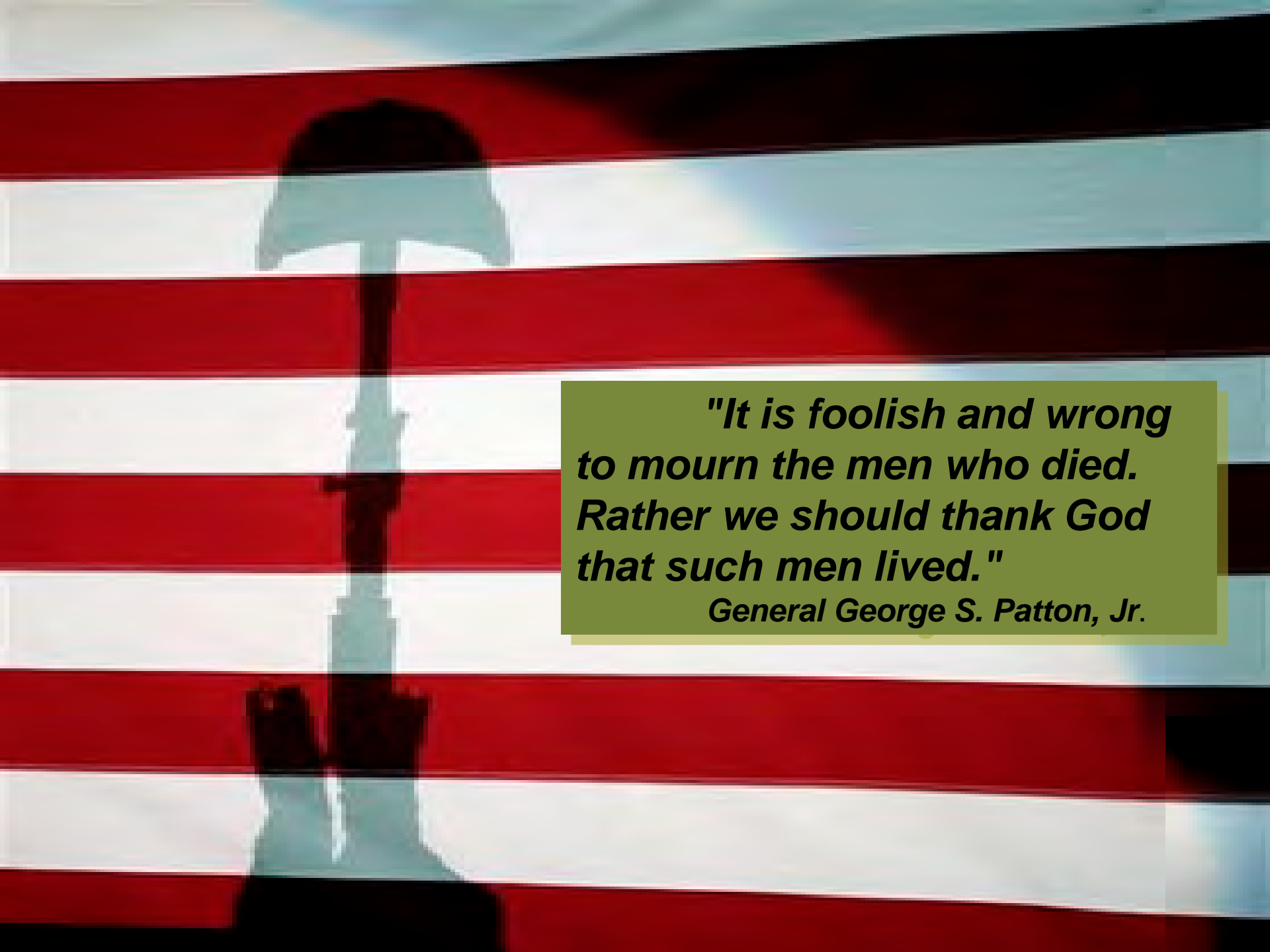
(Thucydides, c. 460 BC – c. 395 BC was an ancient Greek historian, and the author of the *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Pericles, ca. 495–429 BC, was a prominent and influential statesman, orator, and general of Athens during the city's Golden Age—specifically, the time between the Persian and Peloponnesian wars)

The only thing tougher than being a Soldier, ...



is loving one.





***"It is foolish and wrong
to mourn the men who died.
Rather we should thank God
that such men lived."***

General George S. Patton, Jr.



A Soldier's Prayer

“God bless my men, who now lie dead. I know not what You have in mind, but when You judge, please be kind ... when they come before you, they will be poorly dressed, but will walk proudly, for they have done their best. Their boots will be muddy and their clothes all torn .. but these clothes they have so proudly worn. Their hearts will be still and cold inside, for they have fought their best and did so with pride. So please take care of them as they pass Your way .. the price of freedom they’ve already paid.”



What did you do today for freedom? Today, at the front, he died ... Today, what did you do? Next time you see a list of dead and wounded, ask yourself: 'What have I done today for freedom'? 'What can I do tomorrow for freedom'? 'What can I do tomorrow that will save the lives of men like this and help them win the war?'



... nuf said