

St Stephen's News

ST STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH · TIMONIUM, MARYLAND

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A parish in the classical Anglican tradition

24 November 2015

FROM THE RECTOR

Veterans Day reflections on War and Remembrance

A century has passed since the First World War began and 60 years since the Second World War ended, yet they are still the most important formative events in world history.

None who lived through them were untouched by them. Indeed, they influenced and informed our thinking, even in the most mundane spheres of our existence.

It is sad, for example, that our children and grandchildren idolise mere paper heroes. Small wonder so many young people run off the rails when all they are offered to admire are the tawdry images projected by the public relations machines that manipulate vacuous pop-singers and movie stars.

Once upon a time, children looked up to real flesh-and-blood heroes. They were the soldiers, sailors and flyers who had put their lives on the line – and all too often lost them – in the service of humanity.

Some of them were household names (like Ike, Bradley, Patton, Monty and Churchill), but most were just plain folks – mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts, sisters and brothers, the folks next door.

What made these ordinary people so admirable were the extraordinary things they had done for their fellow men. And, though it might sound naïve in this cynical age of ours, these "ordinary" heroes set the standard by which children judged others . . . even singers and movie stars.

Audie Murphy was one of Hollywood's great box draws. Modest, unassuming and strikingly good looking, his deficiencies as an actor were more than offset by the fact that he was the most decorated soldier of World War II.

Audie Murphy provided a role model that parents could heartily commend to their children and their kids could accept without feeling that there was something priggish or wimpy about him. He was the type that most young men hoped to emulate and most young women would have been happy to date.

The movie-going public watched with approval as major stars – Jimmy Stewart, Clark Gable, David Niven, Bob Cummings to name but four – interrupted their careers to answer their country's call.

In the immediate post war period, pop stars who attempted to evade the draft saw their careers go into permanent eclipse.

Back in the '40s and '50s, 'service to the nation' was understood to be one of the highest possible callings, rather simply an opportunity to reap the highest possible return.

The Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, ring the parish office on 410 560 6776.

FOR RECOVERY: Hilarie, Jack, Cal, Phyllis, Edie, Will, Adele, Linda, George, Elizabeth, Shelby, Melissa, Sandra, Ralph, Nathan, Hobie, Hayley, John, Nancy, Jon, Gloria, Judy, Pam, Neal, Aida, Julie, Samantha, Jorge, Francine, David, Betty

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Scott, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Ned, Cindy

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes

The self-absorbed Sixties, of course, changed all that – by no means entirely for the better. Indeed, society is considerably the poorer because of its loss.

Today it is common to encounter arguments that the Allies often resorted to tactics as evil and unscrupulous as those of the enemy.

A British television drama, for example, portrays the country's intelligence services sending an innocent man with a German name to the gallows in order to protect a mass-murderer who happens to be a gifted code breaker.

One can never be entirely sure that such shameful events did not occur. But one can say that had they done so in any great number, such is that nature of our free and open society, they would certainly have come to light as some point during the past 70 years.

It is difficult to say what purpose such exercises in moral equivalence are intended to serve.

Could it be that the narcissistic, self-anointed solons of the entertainment world genuinely see a parallel between the governments of the liberty-loving West and the totalitarian dictatorships responsible for the imprisonment, torture and murder of millions upon millions of people under their sway?

Whatever the motive for such thinking, it is, I guess, the price we pay for free expression – which, paradoxically perhaps, is one of the freedoms those who died in the two World Wars gave their lives to preserve.

Be that as it may, on Veterans Day, society reflects upon the debt it owes to those who answered the country's call and the enormity of the sacrifice of those who never came back.

But in recalling their names, we might also pause to reflect on just what it was they died for. Keeping their vision fresh in the eyes of future generations is the most sincere tribute we can pay them. **GPH**

Cookie Walk at a Glance

Now

- Bring donations for gift and children's tables
- Bring cut greens for wreaths and centrepieces
- Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted — *Please sign up!*
- Bidding is now open for the Knitters' Silent Auction

Sunday, 29 November—Friday, 4 December

- Drop off cookies

Tuesday, 1 December (10am & 5pm)

and Wednesday, 2 December (10am)

- Volunteers needed to make wreaths and centrepieces

Thursday, 3 December and Friday, 4 December (10am)

- Volunteers needed to set up and decorate

Saturday, 5 December: Cookie Walk

- Volunteers needed from 8am–3pm

Sunday, 6 December

- Silent auction bidding ends following 11am service

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Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Ven. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*

The Ven. Michael Kerouac, *Vicar* · The Rev. Michael Belt,
The Rev. John Novicki, The Rev. Robert Ludwig, *Associate Rectors*

The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, *Pastoral Care Chaplain*

Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)

11 am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)

6pm: Choral Evensong (1st Sunday) – evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer

Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

Monday, 6.30 pm: Bridge Club

Tuesday, 7 am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)

Thursday, 10 am: Knitting Circle

Friday, 10.30 am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Thursday, 26 November, 10 am

Thanksgiving Day Sung Eucharist

Saturday, 5 December, 9 am–1 pm

Cookie Walk

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