

Sacred Place

We honor today and always – those who have given their lives as well as those who have otherwise served our country expressing the commitment of their hearts: to preserve the highest values – of our nation . . . “We remember them today - No greater love is there than this to lay down one’s life for one’s friends . . .

In their service to country, they have generated a desire in all of us to be of service: to be there for the needs of others . . . this inspires the volunteers of this cemetery who in turn give of themselves: generously maintaining these sacred grounds. In so doing, we relate to those who are buried here and their families in extending the sacrifice, the generosity, the preservation of the highest ideals we can attribute to our common life together.

The freedom that is preserved through the sacrifice of our military personnel is not that of selfish independence – solely for one’s own limited good. But it is the pursuit of that type of freedom that enables us to be liberated from hindrance in reaching out to others with a generous and sacrificial spirit so that together we might establish community that embraces both the individual good while simultaneously striving for the common good.

The freedom which we experience in the United States is intended not only for us but all God’s children in the human family. Thus, today those who have inherited the mantle of military service from those who have gone before them are called once again to be essentially peacekeepers so that freedom might reign everywhere for all people in all places.

Today we pay tribute and extend heartfelt thanks in particular to the volunteers who help maintain these grounds, who preserve the memory of those who have sacrificed that others might benefit indeed to all who help build a culture of love . . . which God not only intends for the citizens of the United States but for our brothers and sisters throughout the world.