



Dear Divine HOPE Friends,

I am writing this on Veteran's Day. I've done some soul searching as I've seen people posting on Facebook about their loved ones who have served. I myself, put a picture on my Facebook page of worn out, dusty army boots, with a small USA Flag that placed inside one of the them. The boot laces were loosened, they looked comfortable, I sure hope they were. Since posting that picture I began to question...Whose boots were these? Where did these boots travel? What did the young man who wore them witness? Was he afraid? Was he tired? Was he under fire? Was he alone or with his buddies? What amazing acts of valor did this person commit? I tried to picture it in my mind. So many soldiers...so many boots...not with loosened laces, but laced up tight...going into battle. What was it like? To most of us, we will NEVER begin to compare it to anything we've ever experienced. I only know of what I see on tv and even then, it's hard to separate what I see from what is real.

For soldiers in the battle it's real. They have a job to do and they do it, not for themselves, but for the American people, their sons and daughters, their spouse, their moms and dads. They engage knowing they are only one man, but with an army, they can get the job done. How many have gone to heaven getting the job done? So, so many.

Behind every act of valor was a selfless love, but for many who return home from the mission, the battle doesn't end. Though reunited with their families, there are the memories of war. We will never know the challenges they face. How can we possibly take their pain away? We can only express that the sacrifice they've made means something to us. Unfortunately, others are selfish and concerned only about themselves. Just look around and see what's happening in the USA. It must feel like a slap in a veteran's face. That's the sad reality of the situation. While soldiers are being deployed, football players kneel, rather than stand, for our National Anthem. I can't begin to imagine the pain that our military men and women feel when they have given so much, and others understand so little.

I read something that should really shake the people of the United States and I'm glad that our current President is doing more for our Vets. The reality is, those who fought the good fight on the battlefield, often come home to fight PTSD, addictions, damaged relationships, homelessness and so much more. We will never understand the gravity of the sacrifice they have made and every one of us owes them our life!

Not everyone will serve in war, but we can serve each other. It's no offence to thank soldiers for their service. Sunday, we will be honoring our service men and women. We pray that they will feel truly esteemed, valued, and respected as the heroes they are.

If you are a veteran reading this, I thank you for your sacrificial service to our country! May God bless you, strengthen you, and keep you by His mercy and His grace! I am praying for you!

Love,



Julie