SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, TEXAS AND VETERAN'S DAY

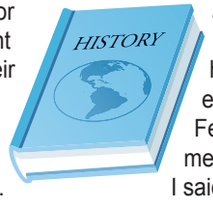
I sit here on Wednesday, November 8, appalled at many things. I expect that most of you are also appalled. Of course, one of the things I'm thinking of is the shooting at the Baptist church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, in which 26 people were shot in cold blood, having done nothing to deserve it. Babies were shot at point blank range. The shooter went into the loft and shot people there. He shot those trying to flee the rampage, those hiding under the benches, those sitting in the benches.

I feel like an idiot because the commentary that came out yesterday (Tues., 11/7) was on our tootle of 9 days ago, and it appeared two days after the shooting. But printing deadlines prevent me from commenting on a more current basis, and now, as we approach the holidays, the deadlines get even tighter.

And then Veterans' Day passed me by, too. That "holiday", or better called occasion of remembrance, is one of the most important we observe. We are called to honor those who have given a part of the prime years of their lives to the rest of us, to varying degrees of injury and trauma. Some can resume civilian life with few complications; some must undergo months or years of recovery and rehabilitation, having lost limbs or mental or spiritual serenity. And they did this to protect our values and way of life, and in some cases, to protect others unable to protect themselves. No matter the motivation for joining the military, the end result is that one who serves ends up giving of him- or herself for the sake of others, and selflessness such as this is always pleasing to God.

How are these two things related? On the surface, they don't appear to be related, but on a certain level, I see a connection. Our military fights to protect our way of life, but what is becoming of our way of life? It is disintegrating before our very eyes. Our American values that were based on God's Natural Law are under direct assault by a significant number of people who hate those values and who choose to believe that this nation is evil, greedy, and a destructive influence in the world. So what's to fight for?

Many of our young people have been taught a warped picture of this nation's past and of its ideological foundation, or they haven't been taught anything of it at all. Their minds are like a blank slate, on which can be written almost anything an indoctrinator desires. And we know that in large part, government schools are controlled by those who hold to leftist ideologies, aka those who reject traditional American values and so do not pass them on.



The younger generations coming up behind us oldsters know little of our founding, our wonderful history, or our role of leadership and compassion in the world, and the mistakes and wrongs we have committed, and from which we must learn. They have little idea of the contrast of good and evil, some even believing the outlandish idea that more people died under George W. Bush that did under Josef Stalin of Russia, under whom more than 20 million people perished! (Yes, I read that but can't remember where.)

The Left, under the direction of its father, the Liar, the devil himself, has redefined traditional values and roles so that down is up, up is down, wrong is right, and right is wrong. For example, men are no longer allowed to be masculine without fear of criticism, ridicule, and even punishment in some cases. Lying and murder are upheld as legitimate tools of "righteous" causes, as defined by the Left. Unbelievably rich athletes scorn the nation (and fans) that gave them the chance to achieve their success, but those of us who criticize them are bigots and haters. Oh, and it's ok to hate and attack those you are accusing of hateful bigotry. Get it?

Do you think that any of this affected the shooter in Texas? Granted, he seems to have been mentally ill, but if he watched any television at all, he couldn't help but absorb the upside down values and the suggestive nature of other murderous attacks. And, he was atheist, as so many leftists seem to be. In addition, so many males have been robbed of their masculine identities, and set adrift in this culture by feminist crusaders, that it's no wonder that they act up destructively. Civil behavioral norms are not being taught much anymore, and meaningful constructive male roles have been diminished and even reassigned to women. Females now dominate, and men have nowhere to go. (As I said, the Liar has successfully turned things upside down.)

A final word on the horrific tragedy in Sutherland Springs, Texas, where there is a little more breathing room for real men to be men: the guy who stopped the shooter by shooting him, Stephen Willeford, heard the shooting, grabbed his rifle, and ran barefoot to the church to deal with the obviously dangerous situation. He succeeded in wounding the man and chased him away from the church.

The big question is, how many more would have died had he not been armed and trained to shoot accurately? All we hear is bleating from the Left about how we MUST control guns, but that would lead to the good guys disarming and do nothing to stop the lawbreaking bad guys. Duh!

In tears and red-faced emotion, Mr. Willeford said how he believed God had him do what he did, and how he was uniquely prepared to do what he did. Obviously torn apart by the whole event, including his role in it, he did manage to acknowledge that this truest expression of love for others, sacrificing himself in order to save lives, came from God Almighty. Bless him for that!

And that kind of faith, the rock that was the foundation of the "American Way", IS worth fighting for. Let's all join the struggle to keep what God gave us, so we can give it away to others, in His name.

And since Thanksgiving is so close, let's be thankful for guys like Stephen Willeford, who instinctively give of themselves!

Linda Gommel

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Contributed. From the Web.

A PIECE OF PUMPKIN PIE?

Jolene was only 8 years old and lived in the country with her parents and brother. Consequently they did not often have visitors from the city. One day Jolene's mother said that father was bringing two guests home for Thanksgiving supper.

After they had enjoyed the turkey, Jolene went to the kitchen to help her mother, and proudly brought in the first piece of pumpkin pie and gave it to her father. He then passed the plate to a guest. When Jolene came in with the second piece and gave it to his father, he again gave it to a guest.

This was too much for Little Jolene, who blurted out, "It's no use, Daddy. The pieces are all the same size."

ERMA BOMBECK QUOTES --

"What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving?"

"Thanksgiving dinners take 18 hours to prepare. They are consumed in 12 minutes. Football halftimes last 12 minutes. This is not coincidence."

ODE TO THANKSGIVING

May your stuffing be tasty
May your turkey plump,
May your potatoes and gravy
Have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious
And your pies take the prize,
And may your Thanksgiving dinner
Stay off your thighs!

ON THE PORCHES AT THE STORE

SAT, November 18, 9A-1P, **BAKE & CRAFT SALE**, by LV Community Church.

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