Living With a Sense of Duty

Having just passed the 10th anniversary of 9/11, and mindful of a decade of war for our armed forces service members, I thought it appropriate to share (in print) this previously preached sermon … as we approach both Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

On this Veterans Day Sunday, allow me to clear something up. When it comes to the subject of the Global War on Terrorism, people are usually found somewhere between the emotions of anger and gratitude: anger for what is happening right now in the Middle East or gratitude for a nation that is committed to making the world a safer place. Quite honestly, I lean further to the side of gratitude than I do anger.

While some in our country have opposed the war in which we are presently engaged, opposition at this juncture is a mute point. We are now in the war, so let’s support our troops and let’s understand the role of government. I believe it is important for us to understand that God placed government and our governing authorities in place with a purpose – to protect the people and punish evildoers. When a military operation like a terrorist group or a nation that is representing evil strikes out, we must fight to stop the evil.

The Bible tells us: “There is a time for war and a time for peace.” (Eccl. 3:8) “When justice is done, it brings joy to the righteous, but terror to evildoers.” (Proverbs 21:15) “[Government] is there to serve God for your benefit. If you break the law, however, you may well have fear … he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God’s servant, an agent of justice to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” (Romans 13:4)

Fallen, sinful people hurt each other; and God has set up government to hold that in check.

There are many, many examples in the Bible where God commanded a war: where God said, “Go to war!” When you look at the great heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 – Joshua, David, Gideon, Samson – these persons were all warriors. When you look at the Bible you find that sometimes war was the right thing to do.

In the Gospels, we note that Jesus never told a Roman soldier to leave the army. If Jesus had been a total pacifist, He would have said every time He saw a soldier, “Leave your army! Come follow Me.” But not once did He ever say it was morally wrong for them to be in the military. In fact, in Matthew 24:6, He said there will always be wars in the world until the Prince of Peace comes back. There will always be wars.

Jesus cleansed the temple … by force. The Bible says He made a whip and He went in and He cleansed the temple. He didn’t politely ask them, “Would you guys, pretty please get out of here?” No, He forced them out. They were in the wrong place, so He forced them out.

We are not to passively sit back and allow evil to run its terrible course … if we have the God-given capacity and ability to protect innocent human lives by holding accountable those who have proven that they will use whatever means necessary to take innocent lives. Some leaders must be forced out when they allow their country to become a safe-haven for evil to prosper.

But this is not where I want to focus today. It’s just a point of clarification. Here’s what I want to say: Express Your Gratitude by Doing Your Duty.

You’ll remember prisoner of war Pfc. Jessica Lynch who was rescued in a U.S. commando raid on an Iraqi hospital. U.S. Special Operations Forces slipped behind

(Continued … on page three)
President’s Corner

"TIME"

"This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

"Where does time go?" we ask. Here it is a new day — we can't remember how it arrived so quickly. Why, last week seems like yesterday and last year flew by like a video in fast forward. Worse yet, we can't remember what we spent all that time on. As for myself, I reflected a lot on time when I was in rehab. I used my time in establishing goals for myself, and then measured them accordingly.

May I ask, "How are we as a Chapel Family using our time?"

There was once a hit song called "Time In a Bottle." The message of the song was search for happiness. But we often don't understand that happiness is not a goal to be won, but a by-product of a life well spent.

There is an old "English Prayer" that offers simple instruction for enjoying the day that the Lord has made. It reads as follows:

Take time to work,
   it is the price of success.
Take time to think,
   it is the source of power.
Take time to play,
   it is the source of perpetual youth.
Take time to read,
   it is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to be friendly,
   it is the road to happiness.
Take time to dream,
   it is hitching your wagon to a star.
Take time to love and be loved,
   it is the privilege of Christians.

Take time to look around,
   it is too short a day to be selfish.
Take time to laugh,
   it is the music of the soul.
Take time to pray,
   it is the power that can change the universe.

May I close with this timely suggestion I read in Our Daily Bread —

"Take time to do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can, while you still have time."

May God bless us richly as a Chapel Family. May we use our time wisely to further God's Kingdom.

Blessings and prayers,
Bob Peterson
Foundation President
(651) 484-5285
E-Mail: oline@juno.com

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The Board welcomes input from members. If you have an idea or suggestion, please feel welcome to contact the appropriate Board person.

Scheduled Board Meeting:
Saturday (9:00 a.m.) ... @ Richfield/Mpls
American Legion Post
12 November 2011

Sunday (1:00 p.m.) ... @ the Chapel
18 December 2011

If you would like a copy of the 2010 Annual Report, please secure one in the Fellowship Hall or call the Foundation Office at (612) 970-7866 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report of last year’s accomplishments.
enemy lines and seized Lynch from the Saddam Hospital under cover of darkness. An Iraqi pharmacist who worked at Saddam Hospital told Britain’s Sky Television that he treated Lynch for leg injuries, but that she was otherwise healthy and that “every day I saw her crying about wanting to go home.” The pharmacist, who gave his name only as Imad, told the TV network that Lynch knew the U.S. troops were on the other side of the Euphrates River and “she kept wondering if the American Army was coming to save her.” Well, as you know, she was rescued. When I hear stories like this, a sense of gratitude rises up within me. All of my life I have been grateful for things, for people, and for my country. Perhaps, nothing impacts me more deeply than my American heritage and American heroes who make sure that their fellow Americans get to come home. Excluding my salvation, nothing means more to me than the privilege and honor I have to be called an American. You see, we know the home that Jessica Lynch cried out for every day while in captivity. America means so many things to us. It’s white two-story houses in country meadows; red barns; green mountains; meandering streams; white-capped water falls; rich fields; stalks of corn; autumn leaves; moonlit nights. It’s catching that first fish. America is shooting baskets with Dad; learning to drive; prom night; college pennants hanging in dorm rooms. America is Thanksgiving dinner and “Silent Night” every Christmas. America is football on the weekends; it’s unhindered worship in churches. America is homecomings and reunions; Memorial Day and July 4th fireworks; it’s crickets chirping late into the summer evening; baseball on the radio; Andy Griffith re-runs; fire flies. America is the pride you feel when four fighter jets fly overhead after the National Anthem; it’s pride in our armed forces as they prepare to make the world a safer place. America is screen doors; it’s pie and ice cream. America is front-porch swings; weddings; smiles; dedicated babies and united families. America is an honest living; it’s about a great movie; state parks; exciting cities; lifelong learning; available information. America is about having a place to call home; a place to share life and it’s experiences with others; it’s beautiful music; aged antiques; and old paintings. America is the place where I learned about what happened for me and the entire world over 2,000 years ago in the far away land of Palestine. It’s a place where as a small child, my folks took me to worship; prayed with me; and read to me the biblical stories of the faith. Thanks to their influence, as a child, I was converted and I knew for a fact that I had been forgiven by Christ’s atoning death on the Cross. All of these blessing that have come to me by virtue of the fact that I am a Christian and an American, creates within me one primary thing: a sense of duty. In light of all these tremendous blessings, I must live my life with duty and responsibility. First, to the God who created me and redeemed me, I must offer a life of acceptable service. I am not free to squander any talent or ability that He has given to me. I must be a proper steward of these resources ... for His honor and glory. Second, I must serve my country in gratitude for what she has done to provide me and my family - life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You see it’s my duty. Augustine once said that the Christian is the best of citizens ... because the Christian does out of the love of God what others do only because they are required by law. Augustine understood that the best of citizens in a free society understand that they have been extremely blessed by both their Creator and their Country ... and that this prompts a sense of duty.

Hebrews, a portion of which was read as our scripture lesson, was written to a group of suffering Christians who were considering abandoning Christ. The option that the readers think they have is to temporarily give up their salvation, go back to Judaism, wait until the persecution subsides, and then express their loyalty to Christ again later. The Hebrew writer argues against this logic. There is no guarantee that they would be able to come back to a place of faith. The writer gave several warning passages to offset this way of thinking and to encourage them to press on to maturity. It helps to know this ... because in the conclusion of his final warning, the Hebrew writer wrote: “Therefore, since we receive a kingdom, which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire.” [Quote from Deut. 4:24] In others words: When you became a believer, you began to receive an unshakable kingdom.
**To All the Veterans**

Dear Veterans:

I have the highest regard for your dedicated service. I thank you and the generations before you that have fought for our freedoms.

However, I want to apologize to you that the citizenry has allowed this country to become a republic of “political correctness” and intolerance for independent thought amongst other things. You have fought too hard to let these ideologies, for example, take hold preventing free expression of ideas (free speech).

We, as Christians, are often told that our beliefs "offend" others because said beliefs (or viewpoints) may differ from certain groups. It is the exchange and discussion of these different beliefs that make the USA unique from every other nation on earth.

For example, we (Christians, in particular) are generally silent during certain times of the year (Christmas and Easter) when public trees and/or buildings are decorated with ornaments and such (Santa Claus, Disney characters, Easter bunny, etc.) to the exclusion of all others that tell the real “reason for the season” (Jesus’ birth, death and resurrection). We need to express our “right” to tell our story along with those of other citizens of the USA without undue censorship being imposed upon us. You, as Veterans, served long and hard for that right.

We have allowed certain anti-Christian groups to come and live here because this country prides itself on allowing for the diversity (and toleration) of people. These groups have taken away the greatness this country has to offer by taking our desire to defend the Constitution and the rights provided (yes, sometimes by military action as needed). In other words, peace to you and peace to me mind-set (at any cost).

Again, we all know by now that our “political correctness” has allowed Christian beliefs and values to be not politically correct. Christians cannot pray in certain public situations so as not to offend anyone. We have allowed our hospitals (that by the way were built in the name of our Lord to allow patients to feel the embrace of the Lord during hospitalization) to reconfigure so that all patients have representative space (not a chapel) to worship “their” god to the exclusion of all others (especially the Triune God).

What have we, as Christians, come to that we have allowed the removal of evidence of our Christian beliefs and values in the places that Christian citizens have founded? For example, the removal of the Ten Commandments from government buildings, courthouses, etc. has become a commonplace occurrence. (Removal of crosses also occurs.)

The good news is that we do have the way to overcome in this environment. We need to get all Christians on board and pray, pray, pray. God will hear our prayers if we are intent and persistent, telling Him that we are asking for forgiveness that we let this situation happen and begging Him for the guidance to return the nation to a foundation of Christian beliefs and values (as did the founding fathers).

— Kay Tennison, Worship Chairperson
Celebrate the Season!

Christmas Garden of Poinsettias
A tradition at the Chapel is to adorn the altar area with beautiful poinsettia plants at our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (4:00 p.m.). The Chapel is made alive with color. You can participate by purchasing a red, pink or white plant(s) — $14 each. This tradition is made even more precious by the dedications which are made for each of the plants. It’s a beautiful way to honor or remember your loved ones at this sacred and holy time of year. Plants will be on sale in the Fellowship Hall starting 20 Nov - 11 Dec. Plants may be taken following the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Christmas Caroling at the VA
Once again, the chapel congregation will be singing Christmas carols … making melody through the halls of the MN Veteran’s Home on Sunday, December 18th (2:00 p.m.). Those interested in participating should gather at 1:30 p.m. at the Chapel Fellowship Hall. Following our caroling, the group will be going out to eat together.

Help us spread the joy of Christmas in song with those veterans who risked their lives so that we might have such freedom to express our faith.

— Your Fellowship Committee

Christmas Eve
On Saturday, 24 December we will have a worship service at 4:00 p.m. Join in the singing of the carols ... accompanied by our Minister of Music — Craig Tennison — on the historic Kimball pipe organ ... in the beauty of candlelight and of a garden of poinsettias. The special music will be the "Regency Trio" and "Touching Hearts" ... featuring instrumental and vocal. A shuttle bus will be available.

Christmas Cookies Needed
The Kitchen Angels are requesting cookie donations for Sundays Nov 27, Dec 4 & 18 for our fellowship hour. Sign-up on the board just outside the Chapel kitchen. Thank you.

— Carol Nygaard
Coordinator

Annual Christmas Luncheon
Be sure to mark your calendar — December 11th at 1:00 p.m. — to join your Chapel friends and their guests at our Annual Christmas Luncheon. It will be held, once again, at the historic Fort Snelling Officers Club located just south of the Int. Airport on Hwy 5 and Post Road. Tickets are $18 each for your choice of either chicken picante or roast pork with rosemary. Tickets will go on sale after worship in the Chapel Fellowship Hall starting November 6th thru December 4th.

Our entertainment for the afternoon will be the fabulous Jimmy Steffen and Holly Circle Band playing their upbeat arrangements of familiar and danceable tunes.

— Your Fellowship Committee

Advent
Soon we will be entering into the Season of Advent, which in Latin means “The Coming.” The Advent Wreath is a circle which symbolizes the eternity of God. The lighting of the first candle represents Expectation. The second candle represents Hope. The third represents Purity. The fourth represents Love. The Christ Candle lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminds us that Jesus is the “Light of the World.”

In this busy time of preparation and anticipation, remember it is better to give than to receive. Once you receive the gift of Jesus, you will want to give the gift of Jesus to others. He is the never ending gift.

Kay Tennison
Worship Committee, Chair
**From the Flag Line**

Since the last article your flag line has been especially busy. As you probably noticed, several of us were missing for two Sundays. We were on the west coast with a Gold Star family on our motorcycles. Labor Day weekend, **Tribute to the Troops** had their annual 3-day ride to visit Gold Star families over the entire state. Sunday at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Chaplain Beale gave the prayer for the safe return of the motorcycle riders who rode to Camp Ripley to have lunch with the MN Army National Guard "Red Bulls." During the 3-days almost all the members of the flag line rode, and/or participated in either all 3-days or a portion of the 3-days.

**Lyle and Marlene** rode to Rochester for a memorial service for POW/MIA day with a family that lost their soldier.

Thanks to David "Doc" Feller for covering the flag line during the two weeks absence.

There are two people on your flag line that give more than their fair share of time, honoring our nations hero's with the **Patriot Guard**. They also ride with **Tribute to the Troops** to visit Gold Star families. When called upon, **John & Pat Lane** attend as many events as possible to honor our fallen soldiers. It does not matter what era these hero's are from or where they are asked to travel to; **John & Pat** can always be counted on to be there. They are great ambassadors from the Chapel.

The Chapel will again be represented on the upcoming **Honor Flight**. Many of our WW2 hero's from the Chapel have been on these flights. If you have not gone as a WW2 vet, or a guardian, you are missing a very rewarding experience.

You can be proud of your flag line!

God Bless America and the 1% that protect the remaining 99%.

— Les Hansen

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**Adult Ed Classes**

Each Sunday our Adult Education Classes are held in the Fellowship Hall (10-10:30 a.m.).

The focus of this forum is to "equipping the saints" in the fight against the myriad of enemies of the faith and freedom. The words of the Psalmist serve as the textual motivation — "if my people would only listen to me ... would only follow my ways, how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!" (Psalm 81:13-14 NIV)

Among the subjects to be addressed, include (but are not limited to): the silencing of Christians and conservatives via the so-called "Fairness Doctrine" • the tearing down of the traditional family • the promotion of same-sex marriage • the radical homosexual movement • the tolerance of Sharia law in our own courts, in competition with the U.S. Constitution • the massive move toward socialism • the economy • political correctness • and more.

You won't want to miss these timely biblical/theological discussions led by Chaplains Beale and Wallman ... along with occasional guest speakers.

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**In the Event of Inclement Weather**

If on a Sunday morning it is significantly snowing ... or tremendously cold ... or the winds are resulting in drifting conditions, please call our Foundation office at 612/970-7866 for an announcement of worship cancellation. In this way we will attempt to inform you of Chapel closings.

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**2011 Chapel Directory**

The membership directory for the Foundation has been updated with all of the corrections received through mid-October. The new directory will be distributed to all members beginning Sunday, 13 November 2011 ... just in time for you to address Christmas cards. You will be able to pick up your copy in the Fellowship Hall.

— Leila Campbell,
Office Manager
In order to continue to receive it, you must press on, even though life around you may be shaking and crumbling! You began to receive spiritual blessings in Christ: a positive eternal destiny; Spirit-enabled living; a part of God’s overall, broad purpose to change the world and to prepare the people within it to get ready for the literal kingdom that will come. This kingdom will literally break into the kingdoms of this earth and overthrow them (see the book of Daniel). So, don’t turn your back on the Hebrew writer’s proclamation! Instead, allow these tremendous blessings of the present and those of the future to inspire within you a sense of duty today that result in offering your lives as acts of worship to God with devotion and awe. Gratitude gives way to an act of the will ... to our duty.

While I believe in a coming heavenly kingdom that will be established on this earth, I also believe that God has providentially positioned America as a free nation and Christians around the world to prepare the present world for the Kingdom that is to come. This inspires within me a sense of duty. However, should America or any other nation or an individual, choose a different path or a different kingdom, know that God is a consuming fire ... as we are told in Hebrews. In God’s presence, all sins are exposed and judged. His judgment comes to rest on those who consistently say “No” throughout their entire lifetimes to a life lived for God. But for the believer and only the believer, those judgment flames become refining flames ... consuming and devouring the judgment that is meant for the unbeliever. In light of this wonderful new hope, we are inspired to fulfill our duty.

The question we have before us today is whether or not we will invest our lives in the lasting, unshakable Kingdom to come? When you ask that question of duty ... that has been born out of gratitude ... duty stands up and says – “Yes! I will do it!” Duty is what we have to do and ought to do; not necessarily what we want to do.

Continuing in your present job may not sound very glamorous, but you do your duty and view what you're doing in life as a calling from God. I don't care what your profession is; you do it to the glory of God. You make things happen there until another open door comes along. It's the way in which you witness and bring His kingdom to bear in our world. You are receiving an unshakable Kingdom; it's your duty.

Our nation's veterans are sacrificing their lives in war. It's not what they want to do; it's what they must do when they are called upon to do so. Veterans recognize that we have been blessed as a nation; now we must sacrifice for that nation ... as did our forefathers. And if you ever doubted their resolve to sacrifice, just look at their memorials. We are receiving an unshakable Kingdom; it's your duty.

Chuck Colson clearly makes this point when he said: "The just war doctrine, in my opinion, applies most clearly to Iraq, provided that there is a connection drawn between the terrorists and the Iraqi regime. Any question about that connection was settled ... by Saddam Hussein. Saddam told his commanders before the onslaught of the war, "When the enemy starts a large-scale battle, he must realize that the battle between us will be open wherever there is sky, land, and water in the entire world." His threat assumes a connection to global terrorism. Our enemy is not interested in conquest, but rather destabilizing civilization. That is why President Bush has adopted a strategy of confronting the axis of evil; nations that are producing weapons of mass destruction and that are willing to supply terrorists."

My friends: You have been blessed ... perhaps far more than you deserve. Give something back. Do your Christian and civic duty out of gratitude.

Serving God and Country,
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr.
Chaplain
(612) 747-1059
E-mail: kenneth.beale@us.army.mil

The preceding article is a sermon preached by Chaplain Ken on 12 Nov 06 from the pulpit of the historic Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel. A DVD of this message is available to order; along with hundreds of other timely messages.
Getting to Know You ...

"Mr. Gunvaldson, Mr. Gunvaldson! Remember me?" Rusty Gunvaldson may be a little "rusty" on names, but his memory for a face is as sharp as a penny nail, even though it's been more than twenty years since the pimple-skinned-troubled-maker graced his class. But no one, it seems, forgets Mr. Gunvaldson, the woodshop teacher at North High School in North St. Paul, MN.

And, probably too, these former students who remember their teacher so fondly, recall learning in history class that when the United States dropped the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, they effectively twisted Japan’s arm into surrender; ending the war. But did they? As the late, great Paul Harvey would put it, here is the rest of the story.

Ralston “Rusty” Gunvaldson grew up in an ordinary small town in western Minnesota called Starbuck. His Norwegian grandparents immigrated there in the 1890’s, and built his ancestral home, a farm house. Later, Rusty's dad ran a country store during the Depression, while a young Ralston attended a one-room school house. Books were scarce back then, only one circulated from hand to hand in the whole district, and Rusty cherished it. But he equally loved the outdoors and roaming through great expanses of prairie grasses, woodlands, lakes and fields flowering with fragrant alfalfa, corn and oats.

But an adventure tugged at his heart when the war in Europe erupted and the U.S. jumped in. Rusty enlisted in the Air Corps as soon as he was old enough, and chose to become a pilot.

"Everything was going just great," he said, "and then I got washed out." No, it's not what you think; the Army eliminated the whole class because the war in Europe was winding down. But Rusty wasn't quite done. He managed to become a navigator, instead, and in 1945 found himself in the Pacific.

"I was at that age when I was not overly concerned about being hurt," Rusty told me. "It was an adventure." But what an adventure; navigating a B-29 Superfortress named Lovely Leta. The pilot named her after his wife. "It was an excellent plane with the latest technology," said Rusty.

The B-29 was the latest heavy bomber the U.S. had deployed, and larger than any other. Its enormous wingspan dwarfed that of the colossal B-24 Liberator by 31-feet, and the oversized flaps on those wings made it possible to take off and land on small Pacific islands. Although in practice, those take offs and landings were a little too exciting for comfort.

While it's true that the war in Europe was over, America still had the task of ending the bloody battle with Imperial Japan. But how? Countless lives on both sides were being lost at an alarming rate, while American POW’s languished and died in horrible death camps throughout Japan. Those men needed to be saved. Enter the 20th Air Force.

By April 1944, the U.S. had activated the 20th Air Force with the distinction of being the first to ever be formed solely for the purpose of taking a specific craft into battle; the newly perfected B-29. The U.S. had realized its need to break Japan's hold on the Marianas, a spit of Pacific Islands that included Guam, Saipan and Tinian, to gain runways to launch bombing raids on mainland Japan thousands of miles away. They'd use the B-29 with its terrific range of over 3,000 miles to do something Japan never dreamed of; hit it at its heart.

On Guam, Rusty knew nothing about what was happening on the neighboring island of Tinian.

(Continued ... on page ten)
Benevolent Giving ...

As a member of the Benevolence Committee, I had the privilege of visiting the restoration process of a WW2 glider. As Chapel member Jim Johns was explaining it to me, I thought who better than Jim to tell the story.

The CG-4A Transport Glider

The Army called them flying coffins. The Army Air Force referred to them as “America’s answer to the Japanese Kamikaze.” Walter Cronkite who became America’s favorite newscaster was quoted as saying, “If you ever have to go into combat don’t go by glider. Walk, crawl, swim, float by parachute, anything but don’t go by glider. This comes from one who did, just once.” This represented the experiences from America’s newest aircraft — The troop carrying Combat Assault Glider. Some 14,000 were manufactured during WW2; 1,509 in the Twin Cities. This glider represents the only military aircraft manufactured in Minnesota during WW2.

The glider concept was actually the idea of Hitler in 1933. The glider could arrive in silence delivering troops and vehicles in a very close area; whereas a powered aircraft makes noise and need lots of room to land. Germany’s early successes with the combat glider in WW2 were phenomenal; however, the large scale operations started to turn when they were employed in daylight in such numbers that they could be seen coming and their adversaries had time to prepare for their arrival. In 1942, Hitler called a halt to all but clandestine operations for the gliders. America did not know this as we were not in Europe yet, and knew only of Germany’s successes.

Feb 1942 Northwestern Aeronautical Corporation submitted a bid to build a troop carrying combat assault glider. The glider carried a pilot, co-pilot, thirteen infantrymen or a combination of howitzer or jeep. With a wing span of 83’ length of 48’ the glider was towed at 150 mph. St. Paul, as well as, Minneapolis had a total of four plants with the final assembly at the twin cities airport in hangars on 34th Avenue South. The gliders were then towed off to their destinations. Northwestern employed 2,000 workers at $31.00 per week. There were also 50 sub-contractors employing another 2,000. The workers consisted of 50% women, 25% over-age men, and 25% those who could not enter the service because of medical problems.

Gliders built in the twin cities were deployed in every theater of the war. As the gliders were 80% wood and designed for only one flight they were abandoned in the fields after landing.

Today, there are only nine examples in the entire world. Five in Europe and Burma where they are displayed in museums in the condition they were found in on their former battlefields. Three are in this country, owned by the Smithsonian, Air Force Museum, and the WW2 Glider Pilots’ Association. The ninth is being restored in Eagan MN by the American Aviation Heritage Group of which Jim Johns is a member. This glider as of now has no final home. The hope is that it will stay in the twin cities.

— Submitted by Les Hanson, Benevolence Committee

This congregation tithe (10%) from its plate offerings. If you know of an organization/ministry ... that is in keeping with our purpose ... please feel free to secure an application to submit for financial support in 2011. Simply call the Foundation Office at 612/970-7888 ... and provide a name and mailing address.

(Two more benevolent causes can be read on page eleven ... )
There, fresh paint spelled out the name Enola Gay on the nose of a B-29 Superfortress. At 2:45 in the morning on August 6, 1945, Lt. Colonel Paul Tibbets jumped into the pilot’s seat and took off for Hiroshima, a city in western Japan known to stockpile military supplies. With him was a single atomic package codenamed “Little Boy” resting in the bomb bay. At 31,000 feet over the city, and 8:15 a.m., the package dropped, and 57 seconds later, 80,000 people died instantly.

Yet no surrender came. Next, another B-29 flew over Nagasaki and dropped another atomic bomb. Japan’s leaders dug in their heels. That was on August ninth. The Americans, incredulous, then sent 134 B-29’s streaming across Japan from the Marianas in a bombing raid that hit like thousands of exclamation points in America’s demand to surrender. Rusty and his crew got their orders, too. They hopped into Lovely Leta and took off to join the tail end of the bomber stream. Just before midnight on August 14, 1945, bombs from Lovely Leta made direct hits on an oil refinery at Tsuchizaki, completely destroying it, along with Japan’s ability to wage war. Within hours, Japan’s Emperor Hirohito surrendered his country to the United States. No more bombs would fall. Years after the war, declassified documents proved that the crew of the Lovely Leta had put a period at the end of the long drama that was the Pacific War, and had dropped the last bombs of World War II. They’d broken the camel’s back.

Via the radio, Rusty heard President Truman announce the surrender at nine o’clock in the morning of August 15. Within days, after wild celebrations, the Air Force reassigned Lovely Leta to yet one more purpose.

In POW camps across Japan, men had seen the strange silver airplane with the American insignia zoom in low. They’d learn from recently captured airmen, it was the B-29. Through smuggled newspapers, they guessed at Japan’s surrender, but wondered if they’d live long enough to be rescued. The first B-29’s to criss-cross the camps blinked their red code lights, confirming the end of the war. Out the cockpit, one pilot tossed a candy bar and a pack of cigarettes.

But the packages soon grew larger and drops more organized. Rusty and the crew of Lovely Leta were among the angels in the sky, dropping boxes of food through bomb bay doors, floating them down to the ragged and grateful men scrambling to capture them, on red, white and blue parachutes. But Rusty never met any of the POW’s he saved.

When he came home, he filled out his thirty years of service with the 934th Air Force Reserve in Minneapolis.

Although he wasn’t a particularly patriotic teenager at the time he joined, he says, "I ended up patriotic." He calls his service to our country, "a privilege."

At nearly 88 years old, retired from teaching and private architectural contracting, he’s far from done. In fact, he’s just beginning, making plans to move to his big, beautiful new home that he built for himself, by himself, in northwestern Minnesota. And in that home, surrounded by nature, are the hundreds of books that he’s collected and cherishes, along with oil paintings and objects of art that every lover of the humanities would own. It’s his castle, well deserved.

Somewhere there’s a high school yearbook with a picture of Mr. Gunvaldson, the woodshop teacher. And there’s an inscription, written in a young man’s hand and in the vernacular of the times that reads: 2 good 2 B forgotten, signed by grateful students and the POW’s he never met, who survived and came home because of what a nineteen-year-old kid seeking adventure did for them. Thanks, Rusty.

Submitted by: Barbara Sommerville
More Benevolent Giving …

When a soldier is called upon to serve this great country, they leave their families at home to continue their normal lives. This can, in some cases, cause a financial hardship. The Vessey Chapter of the AUSA has been there to help these families for over 50 years. AUSA is short for Association of the United States Army; however, all branches of the military are served by this organization. The chapter is an all-volunteer group of patriots. The chapter is named after retired 4-Star General John Vessey. (General Vessey was married at the Fort Snelling Chapel many years ago.) AUSA is a private, professional, non-profit educational organization that supports our military. The mission of the AUSA is to be a voice for all U.S. military personal. The vision is to be the premier voice for American soldiers. They are a dedicated team committed to building the best professional and representative association for the world’s best military.

One of the programs to help the soldiers and their families is Toys4MilitaryKids. This toy drive was started 8 years ago with the goal to make sure Santa came to the families of the deployed soldiers. It is a way to show our appreciation for the soldiers and their families while they are deployed during the holidays. The Toys4MilitaryKids toy drive has over the last 8 years has given just short of $250,000.00 in toys to units in Minnesota. There has been support also to other states that have units based in Minnesota. The program has also helped families of soldiers that have returned from their tour-of-duty and found themselves now unemployed.

Another program started by this chapter is the annual party at the poly-trauma unit at the VA Hospital. This party if for the soldiers and their families. It has been our opinion that there is no age limit for being a kid … so these great warriors are considered kids. For most of us we have grandkids that are the same age.

The support given by the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation’s Benevolence has been very instrumental in supporting the above programs. The entire donation goes to the families. Please visit Vessey5401.org for additional information or if you would like to help. The more folks that get involved, the more soldiers and their families can be helped.

On a happier note … Operation Happy Note started in March 2005. In the community of Osakis, MN, Steve & Barb Baker’s son was called upon to serve his country. Their son was deployed to Iraq and requested a guitar. Steve & Barb sent one to their son and one of his fellow soldiers. With those two instruments Operation Happy Note was created. Since that initial gift Steve & Barb have sent, from their modest store front, over 3,000 musical instruments, incl: mandolins, banjos, violins, harmonicas, and accessories.

Steve also wrote a lesson program with CD for those who did not know how to play. Requests still come in from soldiers that need the instruments to make the music that will bring them the joy they deserve.

Operation Happy Note is a true Mom & Pop operation that depends on the help from those of us that want to show our appreciation for our freedom. Our help allows them to continue to fill the soldier’s requests. Operation Happy Note needs resources to purchase the packing material as well as the postage to send the requested instruments. Operation Happy Note receives 200-300 requests a month and without our support cannot do it alone. With help from the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation’s Benevolence, we are able to help get these instruments to the soldiers. Operation Happy Note is always looking for musical instruments to be donated. It is a non-profit organization; so donations are tax deductible. If you would like to donate an instrument that has been sitting in your basement or closet, please bring them to the Chapel. Once we have collected your donations, Steve & Barb will make the trip to pick them up. If you want to check them out please go to their web site, operationhappynote.com. It is not the size of the building that makes this operation a success; it is the size of the hearts of these two people that have made a difference is so many of our soldier’s lives.
Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

This is a non-denominational Christian church founded in 1967. We invite you to join us for worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at this historic Chapel.

The Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel is a unique Minnesota memorial — a splendid monument to the patriotism, the moral earnestness and the convictions of the people of this state — a shrine to commemorate those who have died for their country. Weekly Sunday worship is sponsored by the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation and is not subsidized by the state.

For Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation information call the Foundation Office at (612) 970-7866, or write to the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation P.O. Box 211283 Eagan, MN 55121 or e-mail to info@fortsnellingmcf.org or check our web site at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

Ft. Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., Chaplain
Rev. Michael Wallman, Associate Chaplain
Craig Tennon, Minister of Music
Leila Campbell, Office Manager
Ruth Fardig, Minister of Music Emeritus

The Snelling Spirit Staff:
The Snelling Spirit is a bimonthly publication of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. We welcome your input, your letters and your suggestions.

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<td>21st Sunday after Pentecost Veterans Day Sunday 10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sermon: &quot;Soldiers of Christ&quot; Music: Augsburg Centennial Singers</td>
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<td>22nd Sunday after Pentecost National Bible Sunday 10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sermon: &quot;The Sword of the Spirit&quot; Music: Norwegian Glee Club</td>
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<td>Last Sunday after Pentecost Thanksgiving Sunday 10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Sermon: &quot;A Psalm of Thanksgiving&quot; Music: American Swedish Institute Male Chorus</td>
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<td>1st Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion Sermon: &quot;Gabriel Delivers the Message&quot; Music: Richard Hensold, Bagpipes</td>
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<td><strong>Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation Staff</strong>&lt;br&gt;Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr. — Phone: 612/747-1059 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:kenneth.beale@us.army.mil">kenneth.beale@us.army.mil</a>&lt;br&gt;Assoc Chaplain: Rev. Michael Wallman — Phone: 651/702-1031 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:michaelwallman@msn.com">michaelwallman@msn.com</a>&lt;br&gt;Minister of Music: Craig Tennison — Phone: 651/481-1416 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:craigtennison@usfamily.net">craigtennison@usfamily.net</a>&lt;br&gt;Office Manager: Leila Campbell — Phone: 651/456-4410 — E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@fortsnellingmcf.org">info@fortsnellingmcf.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://www.fortsnellingmcf.org">www.fortsnellingmcf.org</a> — Fax: 651/456-4411</td>
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<td><strong>2nd Sunday in Advent</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pearl Harbor Remembrance&lt;br&gt;10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class&lt;br&gt;11:00 a.m. <strong>Worship Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sermon: &quot;Advent: Entering the Ending War&quot;&lt;br&gt;Music: Chord Ayres</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class&lt;br&gt;11:00 a.m. <strong>Worship Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sermon: &quot;A 3M Christmas&quot;&lt;br&gt;Music: Nancy Guertin &amp; Joe Sanches</td>
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<td><strong>3rd Sunday in Advent</strong>&lt;br&gt;10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class&lt;br&gt;11:00 a.m. <strong>Worship Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sermon: &quot;The Advent of Prophecy&quot;&lt;br&gt;Music: Land of Lakes Choir Boys</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m. Adult Education Class&lt;br&gt;11:00 a.m. <strong>Worship Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sermon: &quot;What If There Was No Christmas?&quot;&lt;br&gt;Music: Christmas Carol Hymn Sing</td>
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<td><strong>Christmas Day</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:00 a.m. <strong>Worship Service</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sermon: &quot;What If There Was No Christmas?&quot;&lt;br&gt;Music: Christmas Carol Hymn Sing</td>
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