

Thank you. A couple years ago, my wife and I visited the Pearl Harbor memorial. There, I came across a plaque inscribed with a poem Eleanor Roosevelt carried in her pocket during World War II. The poem today is known as Eleanor Roosevelt's Wartime Prayer. It reads:

*Dear Lord,
Lest I continue
My complacent way,
Help me to remember that somewhere,
Somehow out there
A man died for me today.
As long as there be war,
I then must
Ask and answer
Am I worth dying for?*

Eleanor Roosevelt's Wartime Prayer touched my soul so profoundly. You see, as we go about our daily lives... as we sleep at night... we do so under the watchful protection of service men and women at home and abroad. These service men and women are putting their very lives at risk for us... for you.

Today, Memorial Day, we remember those who have fallen in service...

- Our grandparents and grandchildren,
- Our fathers and mothers,
- Our nephews and nieces,
- Our uncles and aunts,
- Our sons and daughters,
- Our brothers and sisters,
- Our husbands and wives,
- Our friends,
- Our family,

We remember our loved ones who fought valiantly to preserve and protect our community; our nation.

- Today, we remember,
- As we go about our daily lives,
- As we sleep at night,

We do so because they were there – standing guard.

Today, we remember,

- Their courage,

- Their strength,
- Their dedication,
- Their service.

Today, we remember

- The love they had for our community,
 - o For our country,
 - o For their brothers and sisters in arms.

But,

Let us reflect further...

The highest gift they gave... is not a memory,

The highest gift they gave

AND still give us today is this –

A legacy that endures.

And for their legacy, there are not words sufficient enough to express our solemn gratitude.

So, I lift up the words of my mouth and meditations of my heart to God; and pray that those who have fallen and their families are embraced with comfort... with peace...

that they rest knowing that we do more than remember their service, but

we live their legacy.

And for that, we are forever and profoundly grateful.

And to reflect on Eleanor Roosevelt's Wartime Prayer, I ask that we who live their legacy would look ourselves in the mirror and ask this:

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow,

because of conflict, strife, and war,

someone has and someone will die for me,

Am I worth dying for?

I pray that each of us will answer "yes," but not just through our words, but also through our actions; may we honor the legacy of our service men and women in our daily walk.

For those who have fallen – we are grateful for your service, for your sacrifice, and for your enduring legacy.

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord's light shine upon you and give you Peace. Amen.