



The President's Perspective



A Noble and Selfless Cause

This past week, the state of Ohio, and the entire nation, suffered a great loss with the deaths of 19 Marine reservists, all from the same unit. The heavy use of National Guard and Reserve units in Iraq has broken with a long-standing tradition that kept most of these troops out of combat since WWII and Korea. The military members required to serve in combat, after multiple siblings died in battle in WWII. This past week, however, the war came dramatically and painfully home to Columbus, Ohio.

“When a large number of casualties hits a community, it causes a pocket of trauma”, says Jim Martin, retired Army Colonel from Pennsylvania. “It’s aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, boyfriends and girlfriends. It’s not just 20 families affected, it’s 200.” While I heard several “talking heads” in the media bemoaning the “tragedy” of losing such young and talented men and women, I have heard nothing like that from the families. In fact, from the families who’ve suffered the losses, I’ve heard the opposite. One dad expressed, through his tears, that his son was “so proud to be a marine, so proud of the uniform he wore.” Over and over, I have seen and heard the grief. Yet it is grief tempered by an understanding that their sons died in a noble and selfless cause. With re-enlistment up sharply, it’s obvious that our military men and women understand the same thing. It’s not all about them! It’s about a cause far bigger than them.

In a world bombarded with advertising that tells us to live as we please and buy what we want because “we’re worth it.” The military may well be one of the last citadels combating that erroneous, selfish and totally un-biblical mindset. Jesus said it clearly in Matt 20:28, “Even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and to give His life a ransom for many.” He came not just to serve, but to totally sacrifice Himself.

I trust that we’ll not allow the culture-coddling media to shape us after its self-serving mold. Jesus counted it “joy” (Heb 12:2) to die for us. Believe it or not, there are still some military families that are selfless enough to believe and do the same.

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