



DAVE KISTLER

### **No Greater Love**

*"Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends."*  
(John 15:13)

Almost three years ago (June 2005), Lt. Michael Murphy led his four man Seal Team into the 10,000 foot peaks of Afghanistan's Hindu Kush mountains in search of terrorists. Within a short time, his team was completely surrounded by almost 40 Taliban militia, who pinned them down in a ravine. Without any ammo to defend themselves, Lt. Murphy left the safety of the ravine and moved, not only into the open, but to the top of the highest rock in sight, in order to get a phone signal. While standing on the rock and calling for reinforcements, Lt. Murphy was shot two times in the back, causing him to drop his phone momentarily. After retrieving the phone, he completed his call, even ending his conversation with the words "Thank you." That was the last time his buddies would see him alive. Because of his heroic act, the rest of his team, who were severely wounded and dying, was rescued. Lt. Michael Murphy was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the only recipient to be so honored from the war in Afghanistan.

Today, I heard Marcus Luttrell (Petty Officer, 2nd Class), the lone survivor of that ambush attack, speak with great emotion about his respect, admiration and love for Michael Murphy. When asked, "What do you want to say to America today, in light of Memorial Day?" Luttrell simply said, "Tell America not to worry, 'cause we've got their back!"

I hope that we, as Americans, stop complaining about what we're having to "sacrifice" in these days of economic slowdown. We know NOTHING of sacrifice! On Monday, as we're enjoying hamburgers, hot dogs, soda, and the fellowship of family and friends, may we NEVER forget that we get to do so because of an almost invisible group of men and women, who have willingly donned the U.S. military uniform to protect us. When you see one of these humble heroes, take time (and I mean time) to thank them for all they do. I can assure you that you'll get their usual response, "I'm just doing my job." They are doing exactly

that, and doing it better than anyone else can! However, it would be ungrateful, at least, and criminal, at most, to refuse to express our sincere gratitude. It may sound trite, but it is none the less true, "Only two people have died for me - Jesus Christ, and the American soldier." This Memorial Day, I want to say a giant "Thank You" to both!

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