

"FOUR WORDS TO LIVE BY"
SATILLA BAPTIST CHURCH
MEMORIAL DAY 2012
Sunday, May 27th, 2012 AM Service
Pastor William Pope
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www.satillachurch.com

I. INTRODUCTION

- a. Unlike Veterans Day when we remember all of those who have served our nation in the military, Memorial Day is set aside especially for those who have given "that last full measure of devotion". They gave their lives for our country and we remember their sacrifice on this day.
- b. I want to share four words that come to mind when I think of these men and women who gave so much on this day. These are words that we need desperately in our nation today.

II. PATRIOTISM

- a. Is it wrong to love your country? NO!!!!
- b. The Psalmist loved his country:
 - i. *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. 7 Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." Psalms 122:6-7 (NKJV)*
 - ii. *By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion. 2 We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it. 3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 How shall we sing the LORD s song In a foreign land? 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget its skill! 6 If I do not remember you, Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth--If I do not exalt Jerusalem Above my chief joy. Psalms 137:1-6 (NKJV)*
- c. Paul commanded us to honor our government:
 - i. *7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. Romans 13:7 (NKJV)*
- d. As you have heard me preach before, Christian Patriotism involves:
 - i. Praying for our nation
 - ii. Paying for our nation (paying taxes)
 - iii. Preaching to our nation (declaring what is right to her and correcting her when she is wrong)
 - iv. Participating in our nation (voting using Biblical Principles as our guide. If Christians don't vote, then non-Christians will determine our leaders!)

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- e. Love of country is not just permissible it is necessary for a nation to survive. Without patriotism a people will no longer sacrifice and work for their nation and will no longer see themselves as a nation and will slowly, or sometimes very quickly, sink into decay and pass into the trash bin of history.
- f. Patriotism is in reality a form of love. It is love for your country and her people and way of life. Like true love, true patriotism will motivate you to sacrifice, to give, to work, to protect, to guard, to care for, and to speak well of your nation.
- g. Let us honor those whose love of country motivated them to offer up themselves on the altar of their country not only by remembering and honoring their memory, but by continuing to keep that love of country alive in your hearts and the hearts of our children so that America may be preserved yet another generation.

III. DUTY

- a. Not only am I reminded of Patriotism on this Memorial Day weekend, but I am reminded of the word "Duty."
- b. Robert E. Lee said this about duty: *"Duty is the most sublime word in our language. Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more. You should never wish to do less."*
- c. Definition of Duty: *A moral or legal obligation; a responsibility*
- d. As citizens of a nation, we all have a certain "duty". We are increasingly living in a world where we do not think of our duty to our country but of our countries "duty" to us!
- e. President John F. Kennedy implored Americans during his inauguration speech in 1961 when he challenged Americans to, *"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country!"*
- f. Memorial Day remembers those who did their duty.....and as often happens...there was a price to pay in the fulfillment of that duty.....and they paid that price. Can we honor them by doing our duty.....regardless of the price?

IV. HONOR

- a. Definition of Honor:
 - i. *Good name; reputation.*
 - ii. *Principled uprightness of character; personal integrity.*
 - iii. *A woman's chastity or reputation for chastity.*

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iv. A code of integrity, dignity, and pride, chiefly among men.

- b. Patriotism and duty without honor leads only to an evil, cruel, and ruthless nation like Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union under Stalin.*
- c. A Nation that desires to be a Christian nation must marry Patriotism and Devotion to Duty with a sense of Honor that is based on Biblical principles of Truth, Compassion, Mercy, Self-Sacrifice, and Personal Humility among many others.*
- d. Honor means that we follow a Biblical code of right and wrong.*
- e. Remember, Patriotism and Duty can bring a nation great power, but only when paired with Honor can that nation be both Powerful **and** Good!*

V. SACRIFICE

- a. Patriotism, Duty, and Honor, if followed will often lead us to sacrifice. This is what we remember on this Memorial Day Weekend. Those who because of their Patriotism, Sense of Duty, and Code of Honor, made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and for us.*
- b. Watch Video*
 - i. <http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=7WGL77NX>*

VI. CONCLUSION

- a. "Lest we forget"*
- b. To Represent the 1.3 million men and women who have given the "last full measure of devotion" for our freedom and sovereignty as a nation since it's founding in 1776 Let us look at 6 Men who gave the last full measure of devotion for our freedoms:*

- VII.** Each of these men was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and their individual citations are listed beneath their photos.

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PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAM R. CADDY (Aged 19)
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE



March 3rd 1945, Iwo Jima, World War II, Pacific

For service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifleman with Company I, Third Battalion, Twenty-sixth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the seizure of Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, 3 March 1945. Consistently aggressive, Private First Class Caddy boldly defied shattering Japanese machine-gun and small-arms fire to move forward with his platoon leader and another Marine during a determined advance of his company through an isolated sector and, gaining the comparative safety of a shell hole, took temporary cover with his comrades. Immediately pinned down by deadly sniper fire from a well-concealed position, he made several unsuccessful attempts to again move forward and then, joined by his platoon leader, engaged the enemy in a fierce exchange of hand grenades until a Japanese grenade fell in the shell hole. Fearlessly disregarding all personal danger, Private First Class Caddy instantly threw himself upon the deadly missile, absorbing the exploding charge in his own body and protecting the others from serious injury. Stouthearted and indomitable, he unhesitatingly yielded his own life that his fellow Marines might carry on the relentless

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battle against a fanatic enemy. His dauntless courage and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflects the highest credit upon Private First Class Caddy and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_R._Caddy

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN P. BOBO (Aged 24)
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



March 30th 1967, Quang Tri Province, Vietnam

For service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Weapons Platoon Commander, Company I, Third Battalion, Ninth Marines, Third Marine Division, in Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 30 March 1967. Company I was establishing night ambush sites when the command group was attacked by a reinforced North Vietnamese company supported by heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire. Lieutenant Bobo immediately organized a hasty defense and moved from position to position encouraging the outnumbered Marines despite the murderous enemy fire. Recovering a rocket launcher from among the friendly casualties, he organized a

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new launcher team and directed its fire into the enemy machine gun position. When an exploding enemy mortar round severed Lieutenant Bobo's right leg below the knee, he refused to be evacuated and insisted upon being placed in a firing position to cover the movement of the command group to a better location. With a web belt around his leg serving as tourniquet and with his leg jammed into the dirt to curtail the bleeding, he remained in this position and delivered devastating fire into the ranks of the enemy attempting to overrun the Marines. Lieutenant Bobo was mortally wounded while firing his weapon into the mainpoint of the enemy attack but his valiant spirit inspired his men to heroic efforts, and his tenacious stand enabled the command group to gain a protective position where it repulsed the enemy onslaught. Lieutenant Bobo's superb leadership, dauntless courage, and bold initiative reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_P._Bobo

Lt. Vincent Robert Capodanno (Aged 38)
United States Navy Chaplain



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September 4th 1967, Quang Tin Province, Vietnam

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Chaplain of the 3d Battalion, in connection with operations against enemy forces. In response to reports that the 2d Platoon of M Company was in danger of being overrun by a massed enemy assaulting force, Lt. Capodanno left the relative safety of the company command post and ran through an open area raked with fire, directly to the beleaguered platoon. Disregarding the intense enemy small-arms, automatic-weapons, and mortar fire, he moved about the battlefield administering last rites to the dying and giving medical aid to the wounded. When an exploding mortar round inflicted painful multiple wounds to his arms and legs, and severed a portion of his right hand, he steadfastly refused all medical aid. Instead, he directed the corpsmen to help their wounded comrades and, with calm vigor, continued to move about the battlefield as he provided encouragement by voice and example to the valiant marines. Upon encountering a wounded corpsman in the direct line of fire of an enemy machine gunner positioned approximately 15 yards away, Lt. Capodanno rushed a daring attempt to aid and assist the mortally wounded corpsman. At that instant, only inches from his goal, he was struck down by a burst of machine gun fire. By his heroic conduct on the battlefield, and his inspiring example, Lt. Capodanno upheld the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the cause of freedom. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_Robert_Capodanno

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Master Sgt Gary I. Gordon (Aged 33)
United States Army Special Forces



October 3rd, 1993, Mogadishu, Somalia

Master Sergeant Gordon, United States Army, distinguished himself by actions above and beyond the call of duty on 3 October 1993, while serving as Sniper Team Leader, United States Army Special Operations Command with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia. Master Sergeant Gordon's sniper team provided precision fires from the lead helicopter during an assault and at two helicopter crash sites, while subjected to intense automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenade fires. When Master Sergeant Gordon learned that ground forces were not immediately available

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to secure the second crash site, he and another sniper unhesitatingly volunteered to be inserted to protect the four critically wounded personnel, despite being well aware of the growing number of enemy personnel closing in on the site. After his third request to be inserted, Master Sergeant Gordon received permission to perform his volunteer mission. When debris and enemy ground fires at the site caused them to abort the first attempt, Master Sergeant Gordon was inserted one hundred meters south of the crash site. Equipped with only his sniper rifle and a pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon and his fellow sniper, while under intense small arms fire from the enemy, fought their way through a dense maze of shanties and shacks to reach the critically injured crew members. Master Sergeant Gordon immediately pulled the pilot and the other crew members from the aircraft, establishing a perimeter which placed him and his fellow sniper in the most vulnerable position. Master Sergeant Gordon used his long range rifle and side arm to kill an undetermined number of attackers until he depleted his ammunition. Master Sergeant Gordon then went back to the wreckage, recovering some of the crew's weapons and ammunition. Despite the fact that he was critically low on ammunition, he provided some of it to the dazed pilot and then radioed for help. Master Sergeant Gordon continued to travel the perimeter, protecting the downed crew. After his team member was fatally wounded and his own rifle ammunition exhausted, Master Sergeant Gordon returned to the wreckage, recovering a rifle with the last five rounds of ammunition and gave it to the pilot with the words, "good luck." Then, armed only with his pistol, Master Sergeant Gordon continued to fight until he was fatally wounded. His actions saved the pilot's life. Master Sergeant Gordon's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest standards of military service and reflect great credit upon him, his unit and the United States Army. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Gordon

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**CORPORAL JASON L. DUNHAM (Aged 22)
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**



April 14th 2004, Karabilah, Iraq

For service as set forth in the following citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Rifle Squad Leader, 4th Platoon, Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines (Reinforced), Regimental Combat Team 7, First Marine Division (Reinforced), on 14 April 2004. Corporal Dunham's squad was conducting a reconnaissance mission in the town of Karabilah, Iraq, when they heard rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire erupt approximately two kilometers to the west. Corporal Dunham led his Combined Anti-Armor Team towards the engagement

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to provide fire support to their Battalion Commander's convoy, which had been ambushed as it was traveling to Camp Husaybah. As Corporal Dunham and his Marines advanced, they quickly began to receive enemy fire. Corporal Dunham ordered his squad to dismount their vehicles and led one of his fire teams on foot several blocks south of the ambushed convoy. Discovering seven Iraqi vehicles in a column attempting to depart, Corporal Dunham and his team stopped the vehicles to search them for weapons. As they approached the vehicles, an insurgent leaped out and attacked Corporal Dunham. Corporal Dunham wrestled the insurgent to the ground and in the ensuing struggle saw the insurgent release a grenade. Corporal Dunham immediately alerted his fellow Marines to the threat. Aware of the imminent danger and without hesitation, Corporal Dunham covered the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his Marines from the blast. In an ultimate and selfless act of bravery in which he was mortally wounded, he saved the lives of at least two fellow Marines. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Corporal Dunham gallantly gave his life for his country, thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service".

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Dunham

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LIEUTENANT MICHAEL P. MURPHY (Aged 29)
UNITED STATES NAVY



June 28th 2005, AFGHANISTAN

For service as set forth in the following citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as the leader of a special reconnaissance element with Naval Special Warfare Task Unit Afghanistan on 27 and 28 June 2005. While leading a mission to locate a high-level anti-coalition militia leader, Lieutenant Murphy demonstrated extraordinary heroism in the face of grave danger in the vicinity of Asadabad, Konar Province, Afghanistan. On 28 June 2005, operating in an extremely rugged enemy-controlled area, Lieutenant Murphy's team was discovered by anti-coalition militia sympathizers, who revealed their position to Taliban fighters. As a result, between 30 and 40 enemy fighters besieged his four-member team. Demonstrating exceptional

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resolve, Lieutenant Murphy valiantly led his men in engaging the large enemy force. The ensuing fierce firefight resulted in numerous enemy casualties, as well as the wounding of all four members of the team. Ignoring his own wounds and demonstrating exceptional composure, Lieutenant Murphy continued to lead and encourage his men. When the primary communicator fell mortally wounded, Lieutenant Murphy repeatedly attempted to call for assistance for his beleaguered teammates. Realizing the impossibility of communicating in the extreme terrain, and in the face of almost certain death, he fought his way into open terrain to gain a better position to transmit a call. This deliberate, heroic act deprived him of cover, exposing him to direct enemy fire. Finally achieving contact with his headquarters, Lieutenant Murphy maintained his exposed position while he provided his location and requested immediate support for his team. In his final act of bravery, he continued to engage the enemy until he was mortally wounded, gallantly giving his life for his country and for the cause of freedom. By his selfless leadership, courageous actions, and extraordinary devotion to duty, Lieutenant Murphy reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

FINAL THOUGHTS

We will most likely never to be called upon to die for our country as these men did. However we can live for our country by living out Christian Character in

- **Patriotism**
- **Duty**
- **Honor**
- **Sacrifice**

Our nation needs men and women like that, who will live out these virtues. Only then can America truly be great. It is not our military or our wealth that will make us great, It is our people.

Let us pass on to our children and grandchildren the same great nation that was passed on to us. Let history not record that America ceased to be great under our watch.