

Risking Their Lives for the Cause

Just a few weeks ago, we were saddened to hear of the killing of four law enforcement officers in the Charlotte area. Four additional officers were wounded in the line of duty that day. Police officers know their life is in danger every day to keep us, our families, and our communities safe. They put themselves in situations when most people would run the other way. Research tells us that, on average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty each day in our country. Ask a policeman why he does what he does, and you will hear phrases like "to serve and protect," "in the line of duty," "to make a difference," and "to dedicate my life to something worthwhile." At the Kernersville Police Department, a monument to retired officers reads, "To wear the badge is a choice – to serve the public is an honor."

On Memorial Day, we remember men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. Their service goes beyond the borders of our town to protect our great nation and the cause of freedom worldwide.

Our law enforcement and veterans consciously chose to serve at personal risk to protect us. Jesus Christ "signed up" for the cause of freedom, too. He was obedient to His Heavenly Father as he accepted this role. Jesus knew he would die for the cause, paving the way for all mankind to seek eternal life. It was the only way that could happen. He died so that we could live. His resurrection paved the way for ours.

In a 1955 speech to a group of Veterans, Billy Graham told this story: "I stood by the bedside of a boy in Korea whose spine had been torn away by a shell blast the night before, but by some miracle, he was still living. He was unable to change his position, and if he lived, the doctor informed me, the rest of his days would be spent lying on his stomach. The army medics had patched him up the best they could. I gripped his cold, perspiring hand and said words of comfort to him. He made a statement I will never forget. He said: "It was worth it if it will keep America free!"

We enjoy many freedoms in this country. The freedoms were won for us by those who stood up to protect those freedoms. The freedom to be forgiven of our sins and seek eternal life was won for us by Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Jesus stood up to Satan and the evil of this world, and He won.

This Memorial Day, and every day, let us honor those who put their lives on the line for us. That includes law enforcement officers, past and present, and those who ever served in the military. Memorial Day is the day to honor those who made the sacrifice with their lives. And let us continue to honor Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to be among us and pave the way to eternal life. It was a supreme sacrifice, but "It is worth it!"

The Bible Says: *He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).*

Prayer: Dear Lord. We know that we are free because of the service and sacrifice of law enforcement, the military, and of Jesus Cross, on the cross. We honor all who have sacrificed for us. Amen.

