

November Edition: Honoring Our Heroes



Veterans Day: Remember Our Heroes

Much like the modest veterans it honors, Veterans Day tends to quietly arrive and exit before the general public even takes note. Veterans Day is November 11. Are you ready?

With the inspiration and information held in this edition, you can be ready and able to encourage the veterans in your path. This should be a priority for every American.

It is time to honor and thank our nation's heroes. So many heroes are humble. They often look into the distance and say the real heroes are the "ones who didn't get to come back home."

When veterans say that to us, we frequently try to reply with this affirmative fact: We believe that all of the men and women who were willing to risk their lives for the sake of our freedom and safety are heroes.

Yes, heroes indeed. Each one should be thanked.

As authors/recording artists, we have had the privilege of meeting many veterans and speaking at various events throughout the country. As millennials, we also have observed firsthand how many people lack understanding and, consequently, appreciation for the magnitude of what our veterans have done for us. It is up to you and up to us to share the truth.

Teach your kids and grandkids about veterans. For example, tell them the story one hero at a time. To start, tell them about Col. George "Bud" Day, whose story is a riveting example of unstoppable determination and heroism.

We had the honor of meeting this extraordinary man. And we'll never forget it. His story is a stellar account of what our country's brave men and women do to preserve and protect freedom

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In 1942, Sioux City, Iowa native Bud Day was a young 17-year-old and he had a heart for the USA. He pleaded for his parents to allow him to volunteer for the Marine Corps. This committed, courageous young man spent about 3 years in the Pacific during WWII. After the war, he went to college and then graduated from law school.



This smart, hardworking young lawyer felt compelled to step up once again to serve his country. In 1950, he joined the Air National Guard. Uncle Sam called him up for active duty a year later. Ultimately, Bud Day became a captain during the war. As a pilot, he flew fighter jets during the Korean War.



Serving in a total of three wars, Bud Day went to Vietnam. He had earned the rank of a major and he was in command of a squadron of F-100s. On August 26, 1967, ground fire hit Day's plane and destroyed its hydraulic controls. Suddenly, his plane steeply dove and forced him to parachute out. He smashed against the fuselage and broke his arm in 3 places. And, instead of receiving immediate medical care from a kind hospital team, Bud Day met North Vietnamese militiamen who captured him and marched him to a camouflaged underground shelter.

With tremendous courage and tenacity, the wounded warrior refused to answer his captors' questions. He stood true to his beloved country. He didn't fail his USA.

His ruthless captors staged a mock execution and hung him from a rafter by his feet. He was left there for several hours. But he didn't fail the USA.

The Vietnamese felt certain his substantial injuries would prevent him from escaping so they tied him up with loosely knotted rope. But, Bud Day was not a man to be stopped! On the fifth day of his capture, he managed to untie himself and escape. He was the only POW to escape from North Vietnam.

However, on the second night of his escape, he was sleeping in thick undergrowth when either a bomb or a rocket landed nearby. The explosion gave him a concussion leaving him with blood in his ear and sinuses and shrapnel in his leg. Even in this furthered horrendous state of injury, he continued in his escape! He survived by eating berries and frogs and evading enemy patrols.

By the time of his 12th or 15th day of escape, he heard the whirring of U.S. choppers evacuating a Marine unit. He stumbled toward the sound. Dishearteningly, they left just as he got to the landing zone.

The following morning, North Vietnamese Army patrol shot Bud Day in the leg and hand and captured him. He was returned to the camp from where he had escaped. They tortured him.

A few days later, they moved him to the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" for more torture. Such physical anguish! Bud Day was suffering from his multiple untreated and infected wound as well as malnutrition. His fingers on both hands were curled into fists from all the torture. Bud Day regained

some movement by peeling his fingers back and flattening them against the wall of his cell using his full weight.

And it lasted for over five years. Yes, over five years. For over five years, Day resisted the North Vietnamese guards who tortured him. Despite all of the torture and the years of imprisonment, Bud Day remained resilient and dedicated to the Lord and his country. And He never failed the USA.

One occasion in 1971 stands out as an example of his fighting spirit and unwavering resolve: Some of the American prisoners were gathered for a forbidden worship service. Guards burst in with rifles. Day stood up, looked down the muzzle of the firearms, and started to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner." The other men joined him in song. Through God's help, their spirits continued to resist and fight the Vietnamese in the name of God and freedom.



Finally, Col. Bud Day was released on March 14, 1973. Three years later, President Gerald Ford presented him with the Medal of Honor. No man was more deserving.

Yes, Col. Day was a remarkable man because of His Savior, who strengthened him in every moment. There are so words to describe his courage and extraordinary commitment to freedom and his Lord, Jesus Christ.

Yes, his story is a tremendous example of what our nation's heroes endure and sacrifice so that freedom can prevail.

Please. Share it with your family. Explain to them what our heroes really do for us. It is indeed clear that freedom is not free.

This Veterans Day, do not let it go unnoticed. Do not let any veteran enter and exit your path without your acknowledgement. Thank them. Share a gift with them. Pray

for them. (Join our prayer group at PrayingPals.org.)

Remember the men and women like Col. Bud Day this Veterans Day. Take time to thank them. And take time to thank God for them.

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13, NASB).

---Carrie Beth Stoelting and Stacie Ruth Stoelting,
Sisters and Co-founders of UnitetheUSA.org

Operation Honor Heroes



Here's a great way to honor the veterans in your life: Operation Honor Heroes. It is a national effort to give tribute where tribute is due. Military families can send in pictures of their relatives who have served (both past and present). We will post the pictures online with the name, rank, and branch. That way, thousands of Americans will have the opportunity to thank our heroes! [Thank You, Veterans! Operation Honor Heroes](#)[Click here](#) to see our tribute to veterans page.

Instructions

We would appreciate the opportunity to honor your loved ones who have served. We will post a picture and accompanying information on our web site and social media. Thank you so much!

1. E-mail a picture of your loved one who served to info@unitetheusa.org.
2. Include your loved one's name, military branch, rank, and years of service.
3. Let us know if you would like other key information shared as well.

Featured Quote

"Our veterans fought tirelessly for us - and now it's our turn to stand up for these American heroes." **Senator Joni Ernst** (Iowa), *first woman veteran elected to the U.S. Senate*

This Month's Bible Verse

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

Col. Bud Day Interviewed



Watch Col. Day share about his powerful story.

10 Ways to Observe Veterans Day

Here are 10 ideas to show thanks and stand by our heroes:

1. Donate to organizations like the [Wounded Warriors Project](#), [One Touch Awakening's Project Pillows](#), or [A Million Thanks](#). These organizations do amazing work to give back to our nation's heroes.
2. Call, send a card, text, or e-mail the veterans and servicemen and women you know and thank them for their service.
3. Send them gifts or give the gift of presence (most of all). Just stop by for a visit. Don't forget our elderly veterans in nursing homes. Visit them and let them know you remember and care.
4. Show support to entire military families. Give a gift card. Let them know you are praying for them. Send a card, stop by with a meal, or send a gift card (i.e. for a restaurant). Do something to stand with our military families.
5. Don't be shy -just say 'thank you'. For instance, watch for military hats at Wal-Mart and say, "Thank you for your service." Many times people just don't know what to say to thank veterans. A simple 'thank you' is a good place to start. Many have rarely heard that.
6. [Sign this petition](#) by the ACLJ to defend the rights of Christians in the military. It's a great way to stand with our current servicemen and women.
7. If you see a veteran eating alone in a restaurant, say thank you and, if possible, pay for his meal.
8. A gift to veterans is to become an informed voter who defends our nation's defenders: Honor veterans and do everything you can to protect freedom on the home front. We've talked to a lot of veterans who feel discouraged by the state of the nation. We urge you to do your part to turn this country around. Vote for candidates who will stand by our veterans

and Constitution, get involved in civics, teach your kids about why America is special, etc. We suggest that you read our book *Unite the USA: Discover the ABCs of Patriotism*. It's a guide that explains how you can make a big impact on our country.

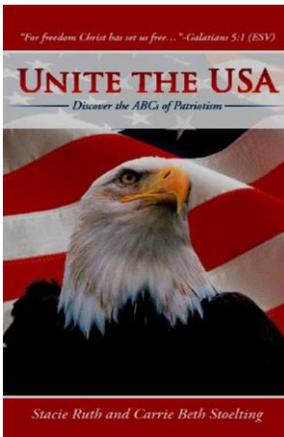
9. Participate in and check out [Concerned Veterans for America \(CVA\)](#). It's a wonderful organization that is speaking up for veterans. CVA's mission is to advocate for policies that will preserve the freedom and prosperity that we and our families so proudly fought and sacrificed to defend.
10. Push for reforms in the VA. The corruption within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is absolutely appalling. For example, thousands of veterans have died waiting for healthcare because the waiting lists are so long. The VA is failing our veterans. We need to stand up for our heroes.

Featured Founding Father



Francis Lightfoot Lee (October 14, 1734 - January 11, 1797) was a member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia. He was an active protester against the Stamp Act and other causes which moved the colonies in the direction of independence from Britain. Lee served as a delegate to the Virginia Conventions and the Continental Congress. He signed both the Articles of Confederation and the Declaration of Independence.

Order Now



Unite the USA: Discover the ABCs of Patriotism is a new book by **Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth Stoelting**. It's a book that empowers patriots to make a big difference in the land we love. With 100+ ways to make a positive difference in America, *Unite the USA* is a must-have tool for patriots. *Unite the USA* will inspire and educate Americans to defend faith and freedom. (Important Note: All proceeds go to fund the mission of UnitetheUSA.org.) [Shop](#)

[Order it here today!](#)

In God We Still Trust
an inspiring album dedicated to God and veterans
by Stacie and Carrie Stoelting



Per request from veterans who love patriotic and inspiring music sung by Stacie and Carrie, [In God We Still Trust](#) was recorded. From the National Anthem to "God Bless America" you will be inspired and uplifted about our God-given freedoms. All proceeds go to Unite the USA. Help promote faith and freedom in America. Your support is important and appreciated. [ShopBuy](#) or [download a copy today](#). God bless you as you celebrate the red, white, and blue!

In God We Still Trust Video

Our country needs to turn to Jesus. Listen to "In God We Still Trust" for inspiration to keep "fighting the good fight". For hope and encouragement, listen to Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth sing "In God We Still Trust".



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Booking Info



Celebrate the true spirit of America with Carrie Beth and Stacie Ruth. Book Stacie and Carrie for concert or conference! E-mail info@unitetheusa.org for more information.