

## May Edition: Honor Heroes and Gold Star Families



**Reminder: It's Memorial Day, which means we remember the fallen heroes of our great land.** On Memorial Day, it's not too late to take time to reflect and honor those gave their lives so that we may live and live in freedom.



We're speechless. It's so powerful no one can fully grasp what that really means. We enjoy freedom because they shed their blood for us.

When we share on media to help veterans and their families, we always try to share the powerful quote from John 15:13 which says,

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."

*A poignant song for Memorial Day is "Battle Hymn of the Republic" reminds us that evil never wins. God's truth is marching on! Here's a video of one of our TV appearances, which we dedicate to veterans, fallen heroes, and Gold Star families:*

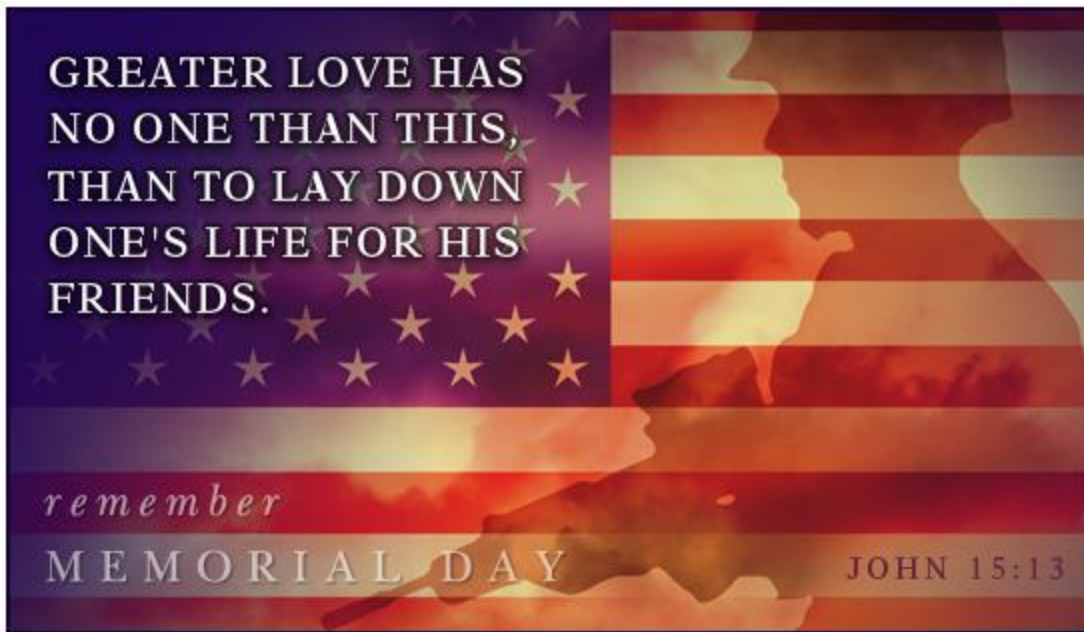
*-Stacie Ruth and Carrie Beth*

On another note, many of our heroes exemplify the trait of being humble: They don't think they deserve a lot of attention. Yet this only verifies that they deserve the attention. **Many living heroes state simply that the ones who didn't come back are the real heroes. We agree, but with one revision: The ones who came back are heroes, too.** We believe that their fallen comrades would want them to be thanked, too.

**Remember the fallen heroes and the heroic families who also incalculably sacrificed. To our Gold Star families, we have a message from our hearts:** We honor your fallen heroes and we honor you, our Gold Star families, this Memorial Day. We do not forget what your son, daughter, mom, dad, grandpa, grandma, uncle, aunt, brother, and sister did. No words express how we feel. We honor your loved ones who gave all, and we honor you, too, because you still feel the pain of the sacrifice. You are loved. Your fallen heroes are not forgotten. We honor them today. May our Lord Jesus give you comfort, love, and hope on this day.

God bless you always,  
Carrie Stoelting and Stacie Stoelting  
Sisters and founders of [Unite the USA](#)

**This Month's Bible Verse**



## Operation Honor Heroes



*Greetings!*

*On Memorial Day, many people receive a huge reality check: Heroes do pass away, and we do need to honor them. Today. Right now.*

*Our national effort, Operation Honor Heroes, makes it easy 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! [Operation Military Christmas](#) Click here to see our tribute to veterans page.*

*Veterans are America's stars who have more than earned their stripes. We are on a mission to urge Americans to honor and thank our heroes. Thank you for joining in our passion to give heroes the honor, respect, love, and attention they more than deserve!*

*God bless you,  
Carrie and Stacie Stoelting  
Sisters and Founders of Unite the USA*

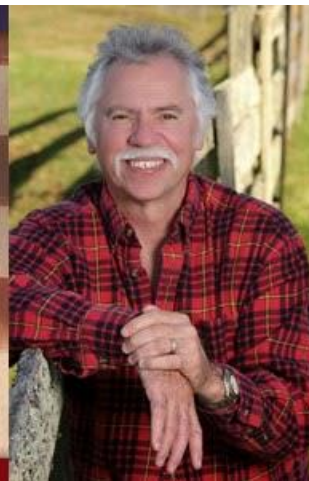
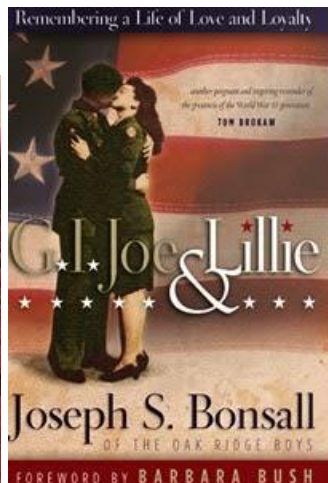
## **Instructions**

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](mailto: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.

## **Remembering G.I. Joe and Lillie**

This Memorial Day we wish to honor and remember the lives of Joe and Lillie Bonsall. Their powerful story is beautifully portrayed by their son, Joe Bonsall of the Oak Ridge Boys. In his poignant book and song called "G.I. Joe and Lillie," Joe shared how both of his parents served our country during WWII. Their strength, profound courage, love for God, America, and each other has impacted our lives. God bless their memory and their special family. We encourage you to get a copy of [G.I. Joe and Lillie](#). You will be moved...





Joe Bonsall pays tribute to his parents:  
G.I. Joe and Lillie.

## Featured Quote

"All of us lead busy lives. We have little time to pause and reflect. But I ask of you: Do not hasten through Memorial Day. Take the time to remember the good souls whose memories are a blessing to you and your family. Take your children to our memorial parks and monuments. Teach them the values that lend meaning to our lives and to the life of our nation. Above all, take the time to honor our fellow Americans who have given their last full measure of devotion to our country and for the freedoms we cherish."

**-General Colin Powell**

*(Retired Four-Star General of the U.S. Army and former Secretary of State)*

## "Freedom Is Not Bought Cheaply"

By Dr. Jerry Newcombe

Freedom, of course, is not free. It has been bought and paid for. The freedoms we enjoy in America are ours because of those who laid down their lives in service to our country. With another Memorial Day upon us, it's good to be reminded of the debt we owe to their sacrifice.

On Memorial Day 1982 at Arlington National Cemetery, Ronald Reagan said of those who died in service of our country: "Our first obligation to them and ourselves is plain enough: The United States and the freedom for which it stands, the freedom for which they died, must endure and prosper. Their lives



remind us that freedom is not bought cheaply. It has a cost; it imposes a burden. And just as they whom we commemorate were willing to sacrifice, so too must we-in a less final, less heroic way-be willing to give of ourselves."

Frequent, "Taps" is performed by a bugler during these Memorial Day services---often bringing a lump to the throat. There are slight variations on the words to "Taps," but they all tend to end with the phrase "God is nigh," that is, God is near.

Here's a common rendition of the words for "Taps":

"Day is done, Gone the sun,  
From the lake, From the hill,  
From the sky.  
All is well, Safely rest,  
God is nigh."

Perhaps, as the influence of Christianity has waned in the culture, so has the commitment to patriotism. Consider some remarks from our nation's founding.

One of our country's great founding fathers was Rev. John Witherspoon, the president of Princeton, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Witherspoon said in a sermon, "The Dominion of Providence over the Passions of Men" (May 17, 1776): "It is in the man of piety and inward principle, that we may expect to find the uncorrupted patriot, the useful citizen, and the invincible soldier. God, grant that in America true religion and civil liberty may be inseparable and that the unjust attempts to destroy the one, may in the issue tend to the support and establishment of both."

General George Washington, then the head of our armed forces, made a similar remark---and this was to his troops during the terrible winter at Valley Forge: "To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest Glory to laud the more distinguished Character of Christian."

In 1941, when FDR was president, he had a special edition of the New Testament issued to the military, by the Gideons. My dad, who served in the Navy, got one. I got to keep it after he died.

President Roosevelt wrote these words in the preface to that edition: "To the Armed Forces:

As Commander-in-Chief, I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul."

It's hard to picture such a practice today. Now, we live in what Dr. Richard Land has called "the Divided States of America." I think that is an apt description. The late Charlton Heston once

remarked, "Rank-and-file Americans wake up every morning, increasingly bewildered and confused at why their views make them lesser citizens."

Yet Reagan once told us, "Our Nation's motto - 'In God We Trust' - was not chosen lightly. It reflects a basic recognition that there is a divine authority in the universe to which this nation owes homage. Throughout our history, Americans have put their faith in God, and no one can doubt that we have been blessed for it."

This Memorial Day, we should, if nothing else, thank the Lord for those who laid their lives on the line for us. We enjoy the freedom we enjoy because they shed their blood for us---reminiscent of the freedom the Christian enjoys because the Savior shed His blood for us at Calvary.

I like what Colin Powell said about this holiday: "All of us lead busy lives. We have little time to pause and reflect. But I ask of you: Do not hasten through Memorial Day. Take the time to remember the good souls whose memories are a blessing to you and your family. Take your children to our memorial parks and monuments. Teach them the values that lend meaning to our lives and to the life of our nation. Above all, take the time to honor our fellow Americans who have given their last full measure of devotion to our country and for the freedoms we cherish."

## About Jerry Newcombe

Dr. Jerry Newcombe serves as the senior producer and as an on-air host and a columnist for D. James Kennedy Ministries. Jerry has produced or co-produced more than 60 one hour television specials that have aired nationwide. Jerry is the author or co-author of twenty-eight books, at least two of which have been bestsellers, George Washington's Sacred Fire (with Dr. Peter Lillback) and What If Jesus Had Never Been Born? (with Dr. Kennedy) . Jerry has also written Doubting Thomas? The Life and Legacy of Thomas Jefferson (with Mark Beliles). Jerry has appeared on numerous talk shows as a guest, including Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher (4x), Janet Parshall's America, Point of View, the Moody radio network, TBN, the Fox News Channel, the Fox Business Channel, C-Span2's "Book Notes," etc. Jerry hosts a weekly radio program called "Vocal Point" on GraceNetRadio ([www.GraceNetRadio.com](http://www.GraceNetRadio.com)), which airs four times each day with new interviews added on Thursdays.

Jerry is an associate minister at New Presbyterian Church, Wilton Manors, FL. Jerry is happily married with two children and two grandchildren. The



Newcombes reside in South Florida. Learn more about Dr. Newcombe at [www.jerrynewcombe.com](http://www.jerrynewcombe.com).

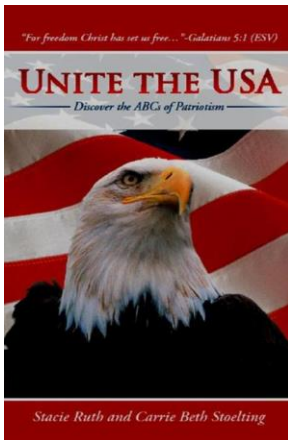
## Featured Founding Father



**Charles Carroll** (September 19, 1737 - November 14, 1832) was a Maryland planter and an early advocate of independence from Great Britain. He was a delegate to the Continental Congress and Confederation Congress. Later, Charles Carroll served as the first U.S. Senator for Maryland. Interestingly, he was the longest-living (and last-surviving) signer of 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](http://UnitetheUSA.org).) [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".



## Share and Sign Up

Be sure to share this edition with your friends. Sign up for Unite the USA's free monthly e-mail [Subscribe for Freehere!](#)

## 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](mailto:info@unitetheusa.org) for more information.

Unite the USA, [www.unitetheusa.org](http://www.unitetheusa.org)