

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently I received an e-mail, which tells a beautiful Memorial Day story. Perhaps some of you received it too. If so, please bear with me as I share it with others who have not heard it.

It's about an elderly man and his wife sitting in the parking lot of a supermarket. The hood is up on their car. Apparently, they have a problem. A young man in his late twenties or early thirties walks in the direction of the elderly couple carrying his groceries. The old gentleman approaches the young man and asks for help. The young man puts his groceries in the back of his Mercedes, shrugs his shoulders and says, "Old man you shouldn't even be allowed to drive at your age," gets in his car and speeds away.

He returns to his car to comfort his wife, and a stranger who has witnessed all this, comes over and says, "Looks like you're having a problem." He looks under the hood, steps back, and says, "I don't even have an idea what I'm looking at, but I'll go get us some help. I'll be right back!" The stranger drives to a nearby service station and asks the mechanic to come help the elderly couple, telling him that he will pay whatever the cost. He returns with the mechanic who dives under the hood and gets to work. The stranger starts a conversation with the old man, who notices that the stranger is wearing a ring signifying that he had been a Marine. Coincidentally, so had the old man. He confides that he had served in some of the harshest battles in our nation's history, including Guadalcanal and Okinawa.

When the car was repaired and running, the older gentleman handed the stranger a card and asked him to stop by his house so that he could repay him. The stranger said, "Thanks, but this one's on me". Some time later, he looked at the card and saw that under the elderly man's name, written in gold leaf, were the words, "Congressional Medal of Honor Society". It was only then that the former Marine realized that he had come to the aid of one of America's heroes.

This story is just to remind all of us that this Memorial Day weekend is about a whole lot more than a long weekend of picnics and baseball and beer. It is a moment to remember and honor the men and women who have and are serving our country, and receiving very little in return. It is only right that we recognize their sacrifices and honor the memory of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom with their lives.

If there are any here who have lost a loved one in service to our country or any present or former service men or women present, would you kindly stand that we might thank you?