

Eternal Gratitude

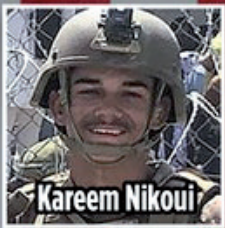
26 August 2021, Kabul AFG



Dylan Merola



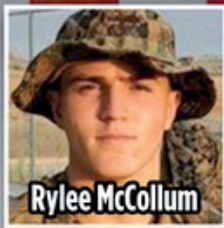
Maxton Soviak



Kareem Nikoui



David Espinoza



Rylee McCollum



Ryan Knauss



Daegan Page



Hunter Lopez



Jared Schmitz



Darin Hoover



Johnny Pichardo



Humberto Sanchez



Nicole Gee

READ PATRIOTPOST.US FOR THE BEST COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS

13 AMERICANS

By Douglas Andrews
Patriot Post, 8/30/21

REMEMBERING THIRTEEN AMERICANS

In the wake of last Thursday's murderous attack, we owe ourselves a look back at the warriors we've lost.

There's a belief, commonly held by older generations, that the ones behind them don't quite measure up. Then, sometimes and sadly, we're reminded just how wrong we are. Such is the case when we read about the 13 warriors taken from us in Afghanistan last Thursday in a murderous attack that we knew was coming. They are:

- **Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David Espinoza**, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas, who Congressman Henry Cuellar said "is certainly one of those examples of what we have here at the border: a young man that went across the

world trying to get Americans and allies of the U.S. to safety."

- **Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole Gee**, 23, of Roseville, California, who's featured in a viral image that speaks a thousand words, and about whom a dear friend wrote: "I find peace knowing that she left this world doing what she loved. She was a Marine's Marine. She cared about people. She loved fiercely. She was a light in this dark world."
- **Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin Taylor Hoover**, 31, of Utah, the oldest of the fallen, who, in his dad's words, "did what he loved doing, serving the United States."
- **Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss**, 23, of Corryton, Tennessee, who when he was in second grade drew himself in uniform and wrote in his yearbook, "I want to be a Marine."
- **Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez**, 22, of Indio, California,

whose mother is a deputy sheriff and whose father is a sheriff's captain, and who had plans to join them as a sheriff's deputy after his deployment.

- **Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum**, 20, Jackson, Wyoming, who got married earlier this year on Valentine's Day, who "signed up the day he turned 18," said his sister Roice, and who was "cast-iron tough," said his longtime wrestling coach.
- **Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola**, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, California, whose two great-grandfathers fought in the Korean War and who "wanted to serve his country," said his grandmother. "It's all he talked about in high school."
- **Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui**, 20, of Norco, California, who was "an incredible individual with a great heart," said a close family friend, and whose death leaves his family

devastated and calling on their faith to help them persevere.

- **Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan William-Tyler Page**, 23, of Omaha, Nebraska, who was a Boy Scout, an animal lover, and a Chicago Blackhawks fan, and who his family says "will always be remembered for his tough outer shell and giant heart."
- **Marine Corps Sgt. Johnny Rosario**, 25, Lawrence, Massachusetts, who friends and fellow Marines described as "a beautiful person inside and out" and "a great mentor to her junior Marines."
- **Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto Sanchez**, 22, Logansport, Indiana, who a lifelong friend says "was a light that was on 24/7" and "was constantly joking, constantly laughing, constantly trying to make people smile."
- **Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared Schmitz**, 20, of Wentzville, Missouri, who, according to his father, was on his first deployment and had always wanted to serve his country. "His life meant so much more," he said. "I'm so incredibly devastated that I won't be able to see the man that he was very quickly growing into becoming."
- **Navy Hospital Corpsman Max Soviak**, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio, who, as a corpsman, was a medic for combat Marines, who was an accomplished wrestler and football player, who was a "beautiful, intelligent ... annoying, charming baby brother," and whose parents, perhaps in the spirit of a corpsman, were selfless enough "to offer condolences to the families that also lost a loved one [and] a speedy recovery to those that were injured."

The New York Post also has a rich series of pictures and profiles ...

"Every death in war is heart-breaking," writes the Wall Street Journal editorial board, "and especially when the mission that killed them didn't have to happen the way it did. But their service is also reassuring for showing that millions of young Americans are still willing to sacrifice to defend their country and its principles. We'll wager that they didn't wait in the locker room when the national anthem was played. They represent the best of America.

WHAT IS REAL?

I love Truth, and God's Truth is almost always opposite conventional or worldly thinking. Ray Bentley's writing for today is a great example of that.

It is worth the time to think about what he says here and to let the Spirit turn our spirits around. Please read it below.

(It's also why I love The Chosen TV series so much, and especially their logo, called "Against the Current". They get it exactly.)

If we aren't the blue fish, swimming opposite to the world, no

matter how much trouble it is for us, then we'd better let God turn us around.

Linda Gammel

WHAT IS REAL?

By Pastor Ray Bentley, 9/01/21.

"Wisdom and truth will enter the very center of your being, filling your life with joy."

— Proverbs 2:10, TLB

I have heard people say that believers live in a "Christian bubble," overly sheltered from the world and "real life."

But what is "real life?"

Several years ago when I underwent laser surgery on my eyes, the doctor deliberately fixed my eyes to different strengths—one for close up, one for distance. My brain, he said, would merge the two and I would see normally.

That's how easily our perception can be changed.

Those who live with "wisdom and truth" at the center of their beings are the true realists.

The lie is that abuse, wars, pain, and suffering is our only reality. We can't ignore evil. We must wage a spiritual war as we serve and love others to relieve pain and suffering. But this is not the reality God intends for His children.

When Jesus walked the earth, people were amazed by the miracles He performed. The supernatural world had broken into their lives. Miracles were regarded then, and now, as a temporary suspension of reality. But the opposite is true.

The miracles of Jesus were moments of reality breaking through into the unreal world.

Miracles are normal for the kingdom of God! Solomon wrote that God "put eternity" in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We are supposed to live in His eternal kingdom and experience His supernatural power.

Reality is obscured every day. When our perceptions are rooted in God's Word, we are living the truth. When our vision gets skewed, lacking God's perspective, we see events and circumstances through a deceptive prism—and all the junk

begins to look "normal."

God put Adam and Eve in the real world He intended for them—Paradise. When they disobeyed Him, believing Satan's lie ("You will not surely die ... you will be like God," Genesis 3:4-5), they chose to walk out of reality into the morass of unreality. Sin and confusion have plagued the human race ever since.

Reality is that God promised to care for His children. When we leave His kingdom, we end up doing something that will harm us. When we enter into a relationship of trust with the Lord, we step back into the real world. We allow reality to be manifested by what will seem like miracles to others, but which we come to recognize as "normal" in the kingdom of God.

"Seek first the kingdom of God," Jesus said (Matthew 6:33). "Your kingdom come. Your will be done," He prayed (Matthew 6:10).

First the kingdom. Reality. Then God's will, where His blessings will be poured out upon you.

Every day, we need to make a conscious decision to meditate on God's Word and choose to live in the "real" world.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

WED. SEPT. 8, 5 PM.

at the Moose Lodge

on Foothill Road, just west of Trade Post Road.
(Probably outside but has misters if needed)
Food service available.

• **What came out of the Town Hall Meeting and the subsequent County ordinance.** What may be pending in another county ordinance. What actions have or have not yet taken place.

Reports and more from:

- Detective Pangburn of the Sheriff's Dept.
 - CHP
- Dominic of State Senator Grove's office.
- Our new County Supervisor representative Steve Reyes.
 - A representative from Assemblyman Smith.
- Congressman Obernolte's office.
- **Pending town clean-up** by the LV Roadrunners.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

From the Web.

So You Want a Vacation Day?

So you want a day off, let's take a look at what you are asking for:

• There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have two days off per week, leaving 261 day available for work.

• Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available.

• You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break that accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available.

• With a one hour lunch period each day, you have used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work.

• You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days available for work.

• We are off for 5 holidays per year, so your available working time is down to 15 days.

• We generously give you 14 days vacation per year which leaves only 1 day available for work, and I will be d@\$\$#d if you're going to take that day off!!!



Household Hazardous Waste & E-Waste Collection

Saturday, September 25, 9AM to Noon.

Behind the fire station.

Free disposal of household hazardous waste (Antifreeze, Auto & Household Batteries, Motor Oil (no oil containers over 5 gal.) & Oil Filters, Latex Paint (only), home-generated Needles in approved container, Computers, TV's, Microwaves, Fluorescent Bulbs, Printers, Cell Phones, Stereos, Radios, VCRs & DVD Players.

NO TIRES or TRASH

NO APPLIANCES

Behind LV Fire Station, 33269 Old Woman Springs Road. For info call 1-800-OILY CAT.

SERVICES AT CROSSROADS CENTER

LUCERNE VALLEY MARKET & HARDWARE 248-7311

WASH N SHOP COIN LAUNDRY 248-7311

FIRST FOUNDATION BANK 248-2717

DR. ASHOK MELVANI M.D. 248-1070

ECHO RECYCLING 760-220-4232

AT THE SERVICE COUNTER In the store

• COPIES • FAX SERVICE

