

Giving Thanks to our Veterans, and to God!

I did it again. To my great chagrin, I let Veterans' Day fly by without much of a mention from us on this page. Yes, the front page of the ad of November 7-13 does mention Veterans' Day with a large red banner across the top of the page. And I've seen it multiple times. But it never really registered in my head. I am ashamed and sorry that I let that happen.

Veterans' Day is one of the most significant "holidays" of the year. It is closely related to Memorial Day, and they often get confused with each other. Both are extremely important in recognizing those who have sacrificed at minimum much of their life's best days and at most, their actual life itself, in order to defend this nation and all of us who live here.

During the Second World War, my dad had just graduated from Cal Berkeley, with a degree in Civil Engineering. He already had a job with a steel pipe fabricating company (Consolidated Western Steel, I believe) located there, designing equipment for the production of various sizes of pipe. His talent and expertise at that young age was recognized, putting him on a trajectory of promotion and success.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, Gommel was motivated, along with so many others, to join the fight. He tried to enlist in the Army but his eyesight was not good enough for them to accept him. Then he tried to join the Navy, hoping to get into the Seabees.



The Seabees were created during WW2 to build advance bases wherever they were needed, to take the fight to the enemy. Gommel's background was perfect for that. He grew up working with his father, a general contractor in Orange, and then he now had his Civil Engineering license.

The Navy was ready to induct him when, at the last minute, they changed course and ordered him to stay at the pipe company, where his skills were needed to manufacture pipe for the military as quickly as possible. His company did manufacture the needed pipe, ultimately including invasion pipe for the D Day landings in Normandy. It was all very hush hush and involved many long days and nights of exhausting work.

Gommel always regretted that he was not allowed to serve in the military directly, but he did have the satisfaction that he gave everything he had to the effort of pulling the country out of the Depression and miraculously building naval vessels, aircraft, and all of the items needed for a military to operate and actually win a war.

Please accept my apology for neglecting this important day of special appreciation for those of you who served this nation. We cannot say "Thank you" enough, and certainly, we barely deserve the sacrifice you all have made.

Speaking of "thank you", the formal celebration of Thanksgiving Day is just a few days away (or behind, depending on when you read this). We have so much to be thankful for!!

In addition to being thankful for our veterans, we must be thankful extra, extra specially to God for the reprieve He has granted us in this last election. I know there are some of you out there who don't agree, both civilly and uncivilly. But you can't convince us that this nation has been on the right track for the last four or so years. Our nation and our culture has been on a downward spiral into moral depravity, zooming full speed ahead into international Armageddon, and allowing God's Enemy to romp through our once-great institutions like a bull in a china shop.

Quoting from an article on my favorite website, "American Thinker", Mark Landsbaum expresses my reactions and thoughts almost perfectly in his article "A Change Has Come", from November 8. Some excerpts follow.

"I unashamedly confess to never being prouder -- or more surprised -- than I was Tuesday when voters overwhelmingly rejected four more soul-deadening years of evil. . . .

It was excruciating, but I figured a holy God certainly must have had enough of our land, where 70 million babies have been murdered in the womb, where sexual depravity has been elevated to a faux constitutional right, where Marxist ideology has supplanted Christian morality. Where despotic tyrants run the government, oblivious to the true human rights they trample. Who am I to dispute God's judgment against such evil?

God surely had seen enough, I grudgingly told myself. I braced for His judgment to arrive in the form of a Democratic Party landslide. . . .

As votes were counted, I truly already felt the pain. Then, what God always had intended from all eternity past came to pass. Mercy for a nation of fallen sinners. Praise the Lord!

To God, all the glory, for sure. . . . My every prayer for the election was answered, save for California, which, for some reason, God chose to leave largely in Satan's hands. . . .

Despite all those elitist voices demanding we fall in lockstep with the long march to woke-Marxist utopia, what prevailed decisively -- and overwhelmingly -- was Common Sense, rooted in good old-fashioned conservative Christian values. . . .

A healthy majority of voters recognized the options were starkly different:

The Democrats' way: "This is what we demand people do."

The people's way: "This is what we demand the government do."

Big loser: a government that wants people to be its subjects.

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LVM Commentary - Nov. 29 - Dec. 4, 2024

Lest We Forget

In Flanders Fields The Poppies Blow
Between The Crosses, Row On Row,
That Mark Our Place; And In The Sky
The Larks, Still Bravely Singing, Fly
Scarce Heard Amid The Guns Below.

We Are The Dead. Short Days Ago
We Lived, Felt Dawn, Saw Sunset Glow,
Loved And Were Loved, And Now We Lie,
In Flanders Fields.

Take Up Our Quarrel With The Foe:
To You From Failing Hands We Throw
The Torch; Be Yours To Hold It High.
If Ye Break Faith With Us Who Die
We Shall Not Sleep,
Though Poppies Grow
In Flanders Fields.

Big winners: people who want the government to be their servant.

Harris refused to explain how she would differ from President Joe Biden. Consequently, she was unsurprisingly incapable of persuading voters that she would not repeat his authoritarian tyrannies, from lockdowns to censorship to the weaponizing of every branch of the federal government from the DoJ to the EPA. . . .

It's time the Stupid Party wise up, too. While our prayer is that Trump learns from his mistakes, such as thinking lifelong bureaucrats would have his back, so too must the Republican Party learn from its mistakes, such as ignoring the interests of the people they represent. If the GOSP (Grand Old Stupid Party) doesn't learn, the people they betray will leave it, and a grand opportunity will be missed. . . .

I've thanked God almost hourly since Tuesday for answering practically every word of my prayers leading up to the election. Now, let's see about California, hm?

Yes! Don't you wish we had gained some sanity here in California? But no, we are forced to have Adam Schiff, the most disgusting liar there ever was, as our Senator. Forgive me, God, but YUCK!

In spite of our travails in California, I thank God with all my heart for the great gift He bestowed on us -- a break from the race down into oblivion. We don't deserve His mercy. We have turned our backs on Him and sinned as grievously as ever ancient Israel did.

That means we owe Him big time! We owe it to God to work to turn things around, to pray all the more for our leaders and our nation. We owe it to Him to personally turn to Him and offer Him our own lives to use as He sees fit.

We are half way through our fall/winter holidays. Next stop: Christmas. Thank You for the early Christmas gift, Father. May we honor You by our response!

Linda Gommel

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9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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