

COMMANDER GUILLORY'S VETERAN'S DAY SPEECH

The powerful sound of a bugler playing "Taps" is a call to remember those who gave their lives in the service of the United States.

SELF INTRODUCTION

Married to my wife Judy and we have two sons,
both are married and we are proud
grandparents of six

FORMER UNITED STATES MILITARY OFFICER DURING THE VIETNAM ERA

Two uncles were Vietnam era veterans with
one doing 3 tours of war

DAD WAS A KOREAN WAR VETERAN

AND MY GRANDSON IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED
AT WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY

ALSO I'M POST COMMANDER OF DORIE E
MILLER POST 817 AND DETACHMENT
COMMANDER OF TEXAS SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION

POW-MIA MISSING MAN TABLE CEREMONY SCRIPT (Performed by Honor Guard).

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED A TABLE AT THE FRONT, RAISED TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO ITS PURPOSE – IT IS RESERVED TO HONOR OUR MISSING COMRADES

THE TABLE IS ROUND – TO SHOW OUR EVERLASTING CONCERN.

THE TABLECLOTH IS WHITE, SYMBOLIZING THE PURITY OF THEIR MOTIVES WHEN ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE.

THE SINGLE RED ROSE REMINDS US OF THE LIVES OF THESE AMERICANS...AND THE LOVED ONES AND FRIENDS WHO KEEP THE FAITH, AWAITING ANSWERS.

THE YELLOW RIBBON SYMBOLIZES OUR CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY, HOPE FOR THEIR RETURN, AND DETERMINATION TO ACCOUNT FOR THEM.

A SLICE OF LEMON REMINDS US OF THEIR BITTER FATE, CAPTURED OR MISSING IN A FOREIGN LAND.

A PINCH OF SALT SYMBOLIZES THE TEARS OF OUR MISSING AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THE LIGHTED CANDLE REFLECTS OUR HOPE FOR THEIR RETURN.

(OPTIONAL) THE BOUND TEXT IS A BOOK OF FAITH TO REPRESENT THE STRENGTH GAINED THROUGH DEVOTION TO SUSTAIN THOSE LOST FROM OUR COUNTRY.

THE GLASSES ARE INVERTED - TO SYMBOLIZE THEIR INABILITY TO SHARE A TOAST.

THE CHAIRS ARE/CHAIR IS EMPTY – THEY ARE MISSING.

The Lord said, “Whom shall I send and who will go for us” And I said “Here am I; send me.

Forty-eight years ago, I took an oath, something I still live by today.

I, Clifton Guillory do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me according to regulation and the uniform code of military justice, SO HELP ME GOD.

This is the oath that anyone entering any branch of the military takes. It is the beginning of a long road to becoming a veteran.

Today, November 11th is Veterans Day. A day for picnics, maybe a trip to a park, hiking, fishing, and all kinds of sporting events. Then there are the parades, school bands, scouts, marching units, and the veterans, three generations strong. Most people along the parade route will cheer and wave. They don't know that most of these veterans have seen the horrors of war, they endured hardship that you can only imagine and we came home to fight a personal battle for what we saw. Just so we can enjoy the freedom that we have today.

We hear all the time that veterans are heroes. I like to think that we are just ordinary people that have done extraordinary things. I have met some outstanding and brave men and women during my time in service. Medics who risk their lives to save others, doctors and nurses working tirelessly, snipers who spend days, and weeks alone watching for the right moment, and men who stood their ground knowing they were outnumbered. Pilots who provided cover fire and helicopter pilots that flew into enemy fire to get their men out of harm's way. Then there were the chaplains, men of God of all faiths who went out armed with only a bible and communion set.

When most people think of veterans day we think of people going to war in defense of our way of life. We see Army Special Forces, big tanks and guns, the big ships of the Navy, the fighter jets and bombers of the Air Force, and Marines storming a coastline. Most people

don't see the Coast Guard saving people from a sinking ship or plucking people off of rooftops after a flood. They don't see military doctors and nurses treating people after a disaster or the Air Force loading their big cargo planes with much-needed supplies. The National Guard is being called out in the middle of the night to search for lost hikers and the Reserves are being called to protect and serve areas ravaged by storms. We forget about the Marines and their toys for tots and the children's homes and hospitals all over the world getting supplies and equipment they need because a soldier cared.

The truth of our military is the spirit and skill of our armed forces and is seen in the men and women who have worn and now wear the uniform of our nation's military. So, today, it is our privilege to say "thank you" to all American veterans, for your quiet courage and exemplary service to let you know we are grateful and

acknowledge your many sacrifices and accomplishments. There is pride in developing one's character and becoming a leader, serving a cause far greater than any self-interest and the nobility of protecting our nation. Every man and woman who wears an American uniform is part of a long, unbroken line of achievement and honor. No single military power in history has done greater good, shown greater courage, liberated more people, or upheld higher standards of decency and valor than the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

Our Armed Forces as I just described are part of a legacy to be proud of. And those of you who contribute to this legacy must never be taken for granted. To honor our veterans, we must continue to keep the promises we have made. We must care for those who were injured in the service of our country. We must support

their families and we must honor and remember those who have died.

This veterans day let's not forget the real heroes. The wives, husbands, and children who had to watch us leave for far-off places. They endured being without their spouse, fathers, and mothers for months sometimes years at a time. They endured the loneliness and hardships, not knowing when or if we would return, all while we were serving our country.

DURING MY SELF INTRODUCTION I MENTION THAT I'M A MEMBER AND CURRENT COMMANDER OF DORIE E MILLER POST 817, THE AMERICAN LEGION. WE AS VETERANS AND

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE
OURSELVES TOGETHER
FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the
United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred
percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our
associations in all wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to
the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes
and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the
principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

The Lord said “who shall I send and who will go for us” and I said “here am I; send me. Amen