

Memorial Day

Memorial Day
A.S.B. - May 28, 1943

Address to Assembly, Sp 88

1. In one of the islands of the South Pacific was a chaplain who was interested in finding out what the men thought they were fighting. In a lull between battles the chaplain went up to a group of men in one of the fox holes and asked, "What do you want most?" "Man - a piece of blueberry pie"! At first the chaplain thought the answer was utterly irrelevant. But the more he thought about it the more he was convinced the marine had said something. "A price of blueberry pie." It was a symbol.
He wanted peace
He wanted home
He wanted freedom to do a lot of things.
Ride in auto
Lie on campus lawns
Lie in sunshine on beach
He wanted home-protected and secure
He wanted mother - who could cook blueberry
He wanted the things all good Americans want.
2. What do you and I want most?
The marine gave the answer.
3. How badly do we want the things we want most?
The answer is found in what
we think now
we do now
we plan to do tomorrow and the coming tomorrows.
4. Last week I read two magnificent books
I, as the chaplain, was searching for an answer to the question.
What do men want most?
What things in life are of most worth.
I received help.
Lloyd Douglas The Robe
Wm. Sarogan, The Human Comedy
Interesting delightful, easy-to-read books.
In Sarogans, The Human Comedy. I found some especially penetrating passages.
Homer Macaulay, the 14 year old telegraph messenger boy, was the hero of the story. His brother Marcus was in the Army. In a letter to Homer Marcus -

"I am happy, and even though I have never believed in wars - and know them to be foolish, even when they are necessary - I am proud that I am serving my country - which to me is Ithaca, our home, and all the Macaulays. I do not recognize any enemy which is human, for no human being can be my enemy. Whoever he is, whatever color he is, however mistaken he may be in what he believes, he is my friend, not my enemy, for he is no different from myself. My quarrel is not with him, but with that in him which I seek to destroy in myself first,"
Wm. Sarogan, The Human Comedy, p 251-2.

The hundreds of our Aztecs who are fighting doubtless reflect this philosophy.
They feel that they have a way of life that is worth preserving.
They have to battle others whose ideas are wrong.
They want others to have an opportunity to live the same way.

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And a second passage from Sarogan's:

Spangler the Manager of the Telegraph Office was Homer Macaulay's most admired friend.

One of Homer's most difficult tasks was to carry teleg. notifying relatives of the death of their loved ones.

One day it became his duty to carry such a message to his parents for his brother; Marcus had been killed in action.

He was crushed and heartbroken at first. Spangler tried to console him.

DEATH AND THE GOOD

"But try to remember that a good man never dies. You will see him many times. You will see him in the streets. You will see him in the houses, in all the places of the town. In the vineyards, and orchards, in the rivers and the clouds, in all the things here that make this a world for us to live in. You will feel him in all things that are here out of love, and for love - all the things that are abundant, all the things that grow. The person of a man may leave - or be taken away - but the best part of a good man stays. It stays forever. Love is immortal and makes all things immortal." ~~But hate dies every minute.~~ - Wm. Sarogan, The Human Comedy. p 284.

Today we honor our Aztec dead.

We have lived with them, worked with them, played with them.

We know them to be good men.

They lived and made the supreme sacrifice.

Our lives have been enriched.

But as Spangler said to the messenger boy -

"A good man never dies the best part of him stays."

But how much of him stays depends upon you and me.

In honoring these Aztecs let us dedicate ourselves to the unfinished tasks.

These men must not have died in vain.

Let's see that they live in our hearts, our College, our homes and our Nation.
