



The Patriot

Valor - Courage in Combat

Valor in battle is determined by camaraderie and fear management. But do genes top character in steeling the bonds of battlefield brotherhood?

By Peter Maslowski and Don Winslow

Editor's Note: *This article is a section from Chapter 7 of Looking for a Hero, a biography of Joe R. Hooper, a Medal of Honor recipient and widely acclaimed as the Vietnam War's most highly decorated soldier.*

How does God differentiate between cowards and heroes?

That was what Civil War veteran Robert J. Burdette asked in "The Coward," a chapter in his memoirs. Based on his extensive combat experience, Burdette agonized over questions having no easy answer because "courage" can be enigmatic and malleable. One of Burdette's fellow soldiers repeatedly ran away from combat but whenever the next battle occurred he moved forward with his unit, intent on performing courageously, only to flee once again in terror. Was this man a coward because he fled? Or was he courageous because he kept trying despite the demons that made him quail in the face of danger and the personal disgrace he experienced as he sped from the fighting?

Other questions concerning courage are equally difficult to answer. Was Audie Murphy courageous? In the sense of doing incredible battlefield deeds, of exhibiting physical courage, the answer was obviously yes. But Murphy admitted he was deficient in moral courage. Sometimes he refused to act sensibly because "I lack[ed] the guts to take being thought a coward." He was so fearful of cowardice, of being shamed, that he did "brave" things.

Vietnam veteran and novelist Tim O'Brien knew he went to war only "because I was embarrassed not to"; not going meant shame for himself, his family and friends. Acting bravely because an individual feared disgrace or ridicule hardly fulfilled the heroic image of valor. Aristotle thought shame-inspired courage was far less commendable than pure courage, of being courageous because it was a wonderful thing to do. On the other hand, it took guts for a man to reject society's pressure to conform, to say, "No, I will not go to Vietnam. Consider me a coward, call me a sissy and a faggot. Send me to federal prison. But I will not go." Here you had a fearless coward. Perhaps more men would have been "cowardly" if they had more courage. Excerpt from VFW Magazine, June/July 2009 (Great article)*The Editor*

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Inside this issue:

Commander News	2
Quartermaster News	2
Ladies Aux. President	2
Men's Auxiliary	2
Monthly News	1, 2, 3, 4
Sponsors	3
Monthly Calendar	4

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▶ A Note from the Commander

August was a busy month with the National Guard Reunion, Membership Kick-Off, National Convention and the District Meeting all packed into one month. A big THANK YOU to everyone who made all these events happen. There are too many of you to list by name.

We are in September already, and with that brings back to school and our core VFW Programs: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year. These programs are our link to the next generation of Americans who will carry on our legacy. We will need help with judging these programs in the coming months. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

We will have a pancake breakfast on Saturday September 12th from 7-10am. We will be serving pancakes, bacon & sausage for \$6.00 this is a monthly breakfast that will be on the second Saturday of every month. Please come out and support your post.

Membership is going well and we should be at 60% when the life members post later this month. If you have not paid your dues please do so. I would like to get membership behind us so we can concentrate on our other programs. If you wish to become a life member, there are several ways to do so. Please see Ralph or myself and we can explain the options to you. Bill Trask: wtrask@gmail.com

From the Quartermaster

We are getting ready to enter Sept. and we would like to thank everyone for their support. We thank the men's auxiliary for putting up the hand rails in the Lane room. Thanks to our Ladies Auxiliary for their support in the membership kick off. Let's remember our shut ins

Stop by the post and socialize with fellow comrades. Ralph Best: ralph.best@gmail.com

News from Ladies Auxiliary President

We are planning to start our workshops back for our Daggitt Doll project. We will be holding workshops on Saturday's at the Post. Please try to attend and help make dolls for our troops. Response has been great from our soldiers, we need to keep them going to them. Please check monthly bulletin calendar for Post and events happening, we need your support with things happening at Post. Our next meeting is Oct. 12, 2009 - 7PM.

The FRG is planning a "WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS" - April 24, 2010 in Rock Hill, this is a big project and we will be asking for lots of help---manpower and donations would be greatly appreciated. Mark this on your calendar this is long overdue for our Veterans. More info to come. Anne Cash: acash09@yahoo.com

News from the Men's Auxiliary

The Men's Auxiliary has completed the installation of the railing in the banquet room and it looks great. thanks to all those who helped with the materials and installation. We now need some assistance with putting down stone around the outside grill and deck entrance. Anyone interested in helping with this project can contact the Post or any Auxiliary officer. We could really use your help. Also, any member who has changed their address and/or contact information, please update it and send to the Men's Auxiliary Secretary at 1442 Harris Road. We need this information so you can continue to receive this newsletter and your membership cards can be forwarded to you. If any Auxiliary member has an email address and would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please provide this information as well. This helps to reduce the cost of printing and mailing these newsletters. For those who do not have email, we will gladly continue to mail your newsletters to you. We meet the third Tuesday of each month, our next meeting will be September 15th at 7:00PM. Look forward to seeing more of you there. Dan : darwjr@yahoo.com

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

We have several members of our VFW family that could use a call or card. Contact the Post for their names, telephone numbers and addresses. If you know any comrades or families in distress, please let us know. God bless our men and women in the military. Rob Elkins

Breakfast for Military Service

Monthly breakfast at Fort Mill VFW Post 9138 – second Saturday of each month. The first breakfast is to be held September 12th - 7 AM to 10 AM. The following breakfasts are scheduled for October 10th, November 14th (same time).

Breakfast will include pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee for only \$6.00 per person. We plan to recognize a branch of our military service at each breakfast. In September we will recognize the United States Air Force. Those individual veterans who served and are serving in the U.S. Air Force can enjoy a free breakfast.

From the Canteen

I would like to thank the men's auxiliary for the purchase and installation of the railing in the meeting room, this will insure safety for our members and guests.

Please come out and support the post in the many activities planned for this month. There will be a pancake breakfast on Sept. 12 from 7 am to 10 am. Also there is a dance on Sept. 12 with a D.J from 8 pm to 12 am (the elks will have a pot luck from 6 to 8 pm and have been invited to stay around for the dance) On Sept. 19 the Elks will have a yard sale and blood drive (open to all) at the post from 8 am to 1 pm.

The canteen needs your support, please come meet our newest bartender and welcome her. Kathy Ward will be working Friday nights and fill in other times as needed. Thank you Kathy for joining our team
Canteen Manager -.Charlotte Podgorski

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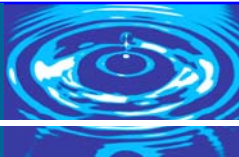
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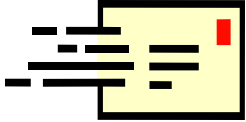


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September 2009



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

HD-TV Sports	Support your Post	1 Happy Hour 5-7pm	2 Socialize with veterans And families	3 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	4 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	5 HD-TV Sports
6 HD-TV Sports	7 Support your Post	8 Happy Hour 5-7pm	9 Socialize with veterans And families	10 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	11 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	12 Break-fast 7-10am Come out!
13 HD-TV Sports	14 HC 5:45 Reg. Mting 7pm	15 Men's Aux. Mting 7pm	16 Socialize with veterans And families	17 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	18 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	19 Elks Blood dr.& yd sale 8-1pm
20 HD-TV Sports	21 Elks meeting	22 Happy Hour 5-7pm	23 Socialize with veterans And families	24 HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	25 Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	26 HD-TV Sports
27 HD-TV Sports	28 Support your Post	29 Happy Hour 5-7pm	30 Socialize with veterans And families	HH 5-pm 1st weekly drawing-7pm	Food & 2nd drawing-7pm	HD-TV Sports