



The Lily Pad



"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys."

Solomon 2:1

THEY GAVE THEIR TOMORROW FOR OUR TODAY



President John F. Kennedy wrote, *"As we express our gratitude [to the veterans], we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."*

November 11 is the day when many nations around the globe remember and honor their veterans. The reason we honor our veterans on the 11th day of the 11th month is because on that day in 1918 (almost 100 years ago) an agreement to cease hostilities (an armistice treaty) was signed at 11:11 o'clock in the city of Compiegne, in Northern France and WWI was officially over - regarded as the end of *"the war to end all wars."*

Veterans Day is about gratitude and stewardship. On Veterans Day, we proclaim our gratitude to those whose service in the military has secured our freedoms and national security through the years. Stewardship can be summed up by the words of President Lincoln - "To care for *those* who shall have borne the battle, and for *their families* and *their orphan*" by serving and honoring the women and men who are America's veterans.

Veterans Day is our chance to say "thank you" to women and men who served their country in the past and who are serving their country in the present. Veterans Day is about our actions in support of the well-being of veterans, especially those who have been injured or traumatized by war. Veterans Day is about our own commitment to the common good and our nation's care for its most vulnerable citizens, military veterans.

A Spiritual Veteran is one must who is completely devoted to the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On this Veterans Day 2017, let us be grateful and let our gratitude inspire us to generosity and commitment to the well-being of our nation and most especially its most vulnerable citizens our military veterans. Then, our love of nation will take us beyond nationalism and self-interest to the affirmation of our role as God's partners in healing and caring for each other.

To become true veterans of the cross, we must first be good soldiers of the cross. May the Lord, this Veteran's Day, make us all true *Spiritual Veterans*.

*God bless America!
God bless women and men who are servicing their country and those who have served.
May peace prevail all over the world.*

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Clarissa L. Martin*

In Remembrance of IC3(ESWS) Marissa Martinelli & In Honor of LTJG (SW) Nicolas Martinelli