

A THOUGHT FOR MEMORIAL DAY

This Memorial Day weekend we remember those who have given their lives in the cause of freedom. And that's a good thing. In India there is a cemetery where the bodies of American soldiers are buried. Over the entrance to this cemetery are the words "Tell Them We Gave Our Todays for Their Tomorrows." Thats sobering. Especially when there are still so many young men and women sacrificing themselves on the battlefield. We salute them and remember them in our prayers.

One of the most famous pictures from World War II must surely be the photo of five valient Marines raising the American flag on the island if Iwo Jima. The young man in the center of that photo was John Bradley. After the war, Bradley moved back to Antigo, Wisconsin, married his high school sweetheart, and raised a family.

Although John Bradley won the Navy Cross for saving a fellow soldier's life, he prefered not to talk about the war. And he absolutely refused to accept the hero worship that others tried to force on him. One of the few comments Bradley ever made about the war, he made to his young son, James. In response to his son's remark about heroism, John Bradley replied, "The real heros of Iwo Jima are the guys who didn't come back."

Today we honor the memory of thopse who didn't come back...and we honor the memory of those who did.