

# SERVANTS OF FREEDOM

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**Matt Heard, Senior Pastor • May 24 & 25, 2008**

***Memorial Day 2008***

*John 15:13/Philippians 2:3-11*

What comes to mind when you see a person in a military uniform?

It's likely that you first take note of the uniform itself: the crispness of the creases, the diversity of the decorations, the polish of the brass and boots, the carefully calculated measurements between all the various pieces and ribbons and medals.

Perhaps your thoughts then take in the individual behind the uniform – the posture, the haircut, the aura. The casual cadence that characterizes the rest of us is strangely missing, having been replaced by a stature that is rooted in the laudable pride that surfaces when you put on a uniform signifying that you are spending your life standing for something much bigger than yourself.

But it is only when you keep looking – past the uniform and past the posture – that you find the most compelling characteristic: the presence of a decisive heart. It is a heart that beats for *freedom*. A heart that is committed to the reality that our nation's freedom is an expensive privilege, enjoyed by millions but purchased and protected by a few. Encased behind the crisp clothing and strength of spine is a heart committed to serving in whatever ways are necessary to preserve that freedom. Beating from that heart is a willingness to pay the supreme sacrifice for the freedom of those men and women and children around them – people who too often forget the price of the liberties they enjoy.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION.  
FREEDOM OF SPEECH.  
FREEDOM TO ASSEMBLE.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.  
FREEDOM TO BE ABLE TO VOTE.  
FREEDOM TO LAUGH.

TO PLAY.  
TO WORK.  
TO LIVE.

Ingrained in the men and women of our military is the heart of a warrior... but also the heart of a servant. A servant who is committed to placing the needs and freedom of others ahead of his or her own preferences – regardless of the cost.

What comes to mind when you see servants like these? Even more importantly, what comes to mind when you see the greatest Servant of all – Jesus Christ?

Memorial Day is a day to honor courageous men and women – both those who have already given their lives for our freedom, and those who are ready to pay that price should duty demand. It is also a day to honor and worship Jesus Christ, the *ultimate* Servant who fought the *ultimate* battle and paid the *ultimate* price so that we all might experience the *ultimate* freedom.

**Notes:**