

## A Fallen Hero

The crisp notes of *Taps* rang out over the normally quiet cemetery as I stood at the grave of my father-in-law Tuesday—a fitting tribute to a decorated veteran of the Korean War.

Rather than the reading of the “standard” obituary at the funeral, the family chose to have *The Story of Harold Kruse*, as written by one of his granddaughters, read. She began the story asking the question, “What makes someone a hero?” She concluded that her grandfather was a true hero. But, even though several of the pictures being shown on the big screen before the service were pictures of Harold taken during his active duty in Korea, she didn’t even mention his heroism in combat. Rather, the story of Harold emphasized his care and compassion for his friends and neighbors and especially the love that he poured out on his children and grandchildren. He was known as a very quiet and gentle man, not the image that we usually have of heroes. But, hundreds of people filled the little church to overflowing, to honor him, when his life was celebrated Tuesday. The crowd was so large that guests had to eat in “shifts” over the period of the next two hours, in order to accommodate everyone.

We often think that we need to be “warriors” in the natural in order to command respect. But, we are called to be warriors in the Kingdom. Kingdom warriors battle for genuine meaningful relationships. Why is that? God so values relationship with us that he sacrificed his own son, quietly, without a visible fight in the natural, in the ultimate battle for relationship. His sacrifice restored our relationship with Himself and the battle was won.

This week, as you fight your own personal battles in the world, don’t lose sight of the battle in the supernatural. It’s a battle for the hearts and minds of your family and those you love. When you grow, protect, and restore relationships with God and one another, even in the face of emotional conflict and stress, you too become a hero in the Kingdom.

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