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Letter: Give them thanks for their sacrifices

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On Memorial Day, we give thanks to the innumerable sacrifices that people in the military have made for all of us, no matter what our political stripes may be. So many men and women literally have laid down their lives for us and our freedoms — there can be no greater way for someone to show us love (John 15:13).

I attended a workshop last week arranged by the Volunteers of America re: the 10th Annual Mental Health Awareness Day that featured Dr. Sudip Bose, M.D., as the keynote speaker, who particularly addressed the issue of post traumatic stress disorder and how participants can better understand what returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan may have experienced physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Dr. Bose, who served for 15 months in Iraq on the front lines of combat, helped to sensitize social workers and other professionals to follow the golden rule of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, particularly related to helping returning veterans cope and deal with ongoing problems related to their experiences.

After Saddam Hussein was captured, Dr. Bose actually examined and treated the former president of Iraq, who had been a leading member of the revolutionary Ba'ath Party.

As Dr. Bose concluded his "Lessons Learned" presentation, he noted that we should always remember to thank those members of our own particular work teams who help to "prepare our parachutes for us;" you never really fully know who has been there to lend a hand for you or even to save your life.

Thanks to all who have served and continue to serve in the military.

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