

Veterans

What they know . . .

and what they really know.

Drew Bartkiewicz

How often do you go out of your comfort zone in middle school?

At relatively young age

Most Veterans were placed out of their “comfort zone” early in life to learn the following lessons that many others take a lifetime to learn.

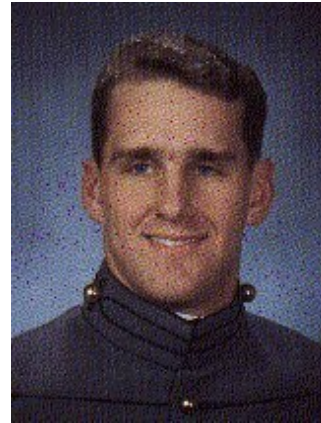
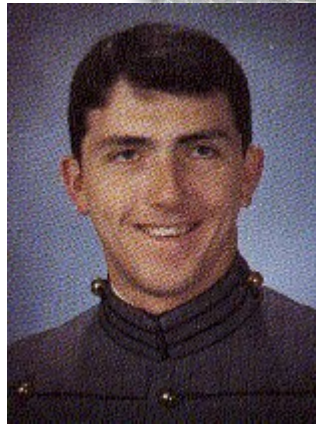
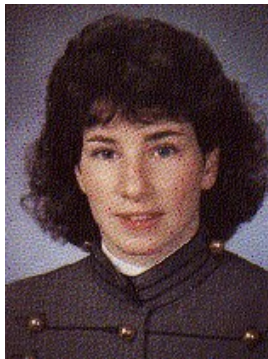
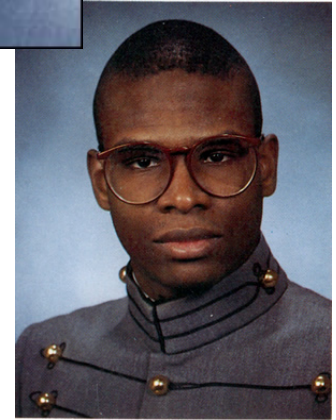
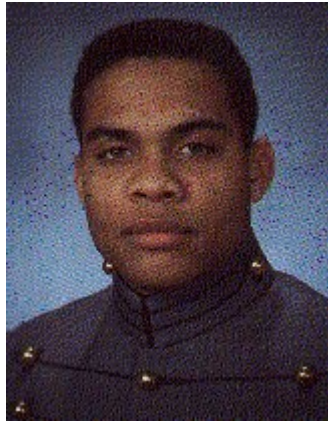
Veterans



<http://www.redbubble.com/people/sparks68/art/706201-5-dunkirk-veterans-sunset>

Know Loss.

These are some of my lost friends



Veterans



www.pbs.org/thewar/at_war.htm

Know Chaos.

In fact

42 Million Americans have served
in wartime since 1776.

1.2 M Died

1.5 M seriously wounded

Veterans



Know Fear.

Veterans



www.museumofflight.org/press/heroes-uss-enter

Know Uncertainty.

Veterans



www.boston.com/.../brainiac/Gettysburg_dead.jpg

Know Death.

Veterans



www.dailymail.co.uk/news/worldnews/article-11

Know Despair.

Veterans



Photograph: Gary R. Voth

www.vothphoto.com/.../images/The%20Veteran.jpg

Know Loneliness.

Veterans



Know Insanity.

So If Veterans Know All These Things...

Uncertainty

Death

Chaos

Fear

Loneliness

Insanity

Despair

Loss

Then what is left for
Veterans to *know*?

Veterans



Know Kindness.

Veterans



<http://www.homeofheroes.com/moh/memory/statistics.html>

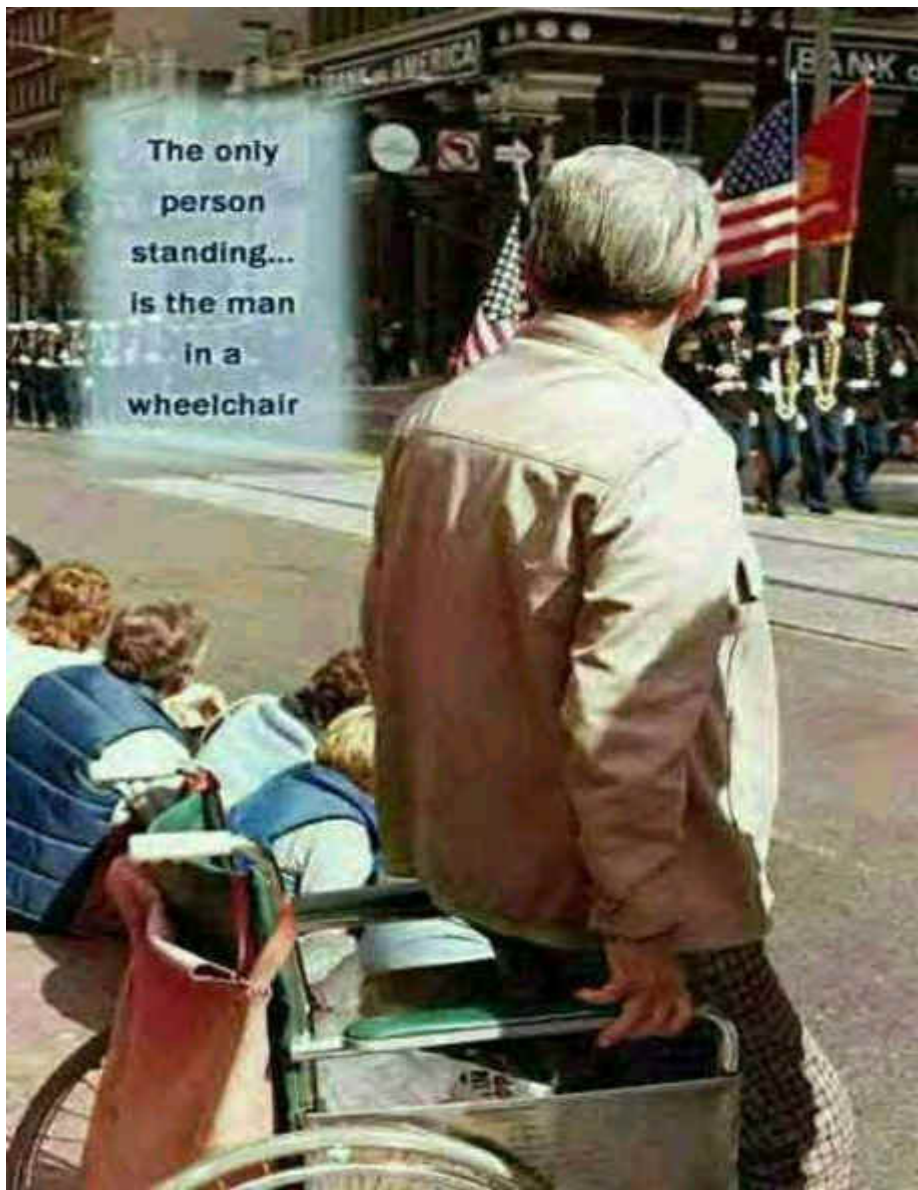
Know Tradition.

Veterans



concordmonitor.blogspot.com/2007/11/veterans

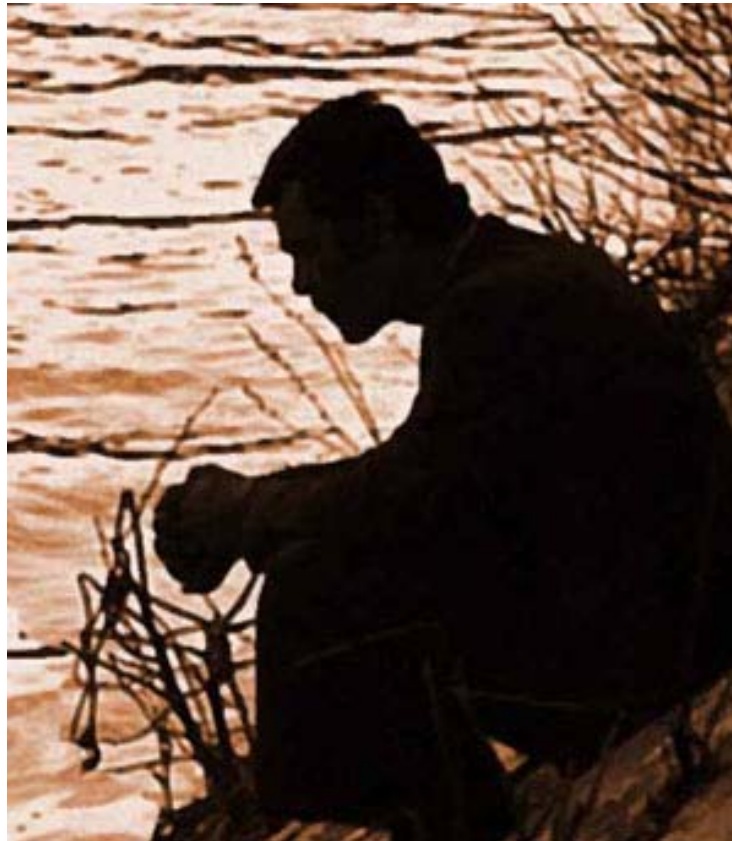
Know Pride.



Veterans

Know to Honor their
Flag.

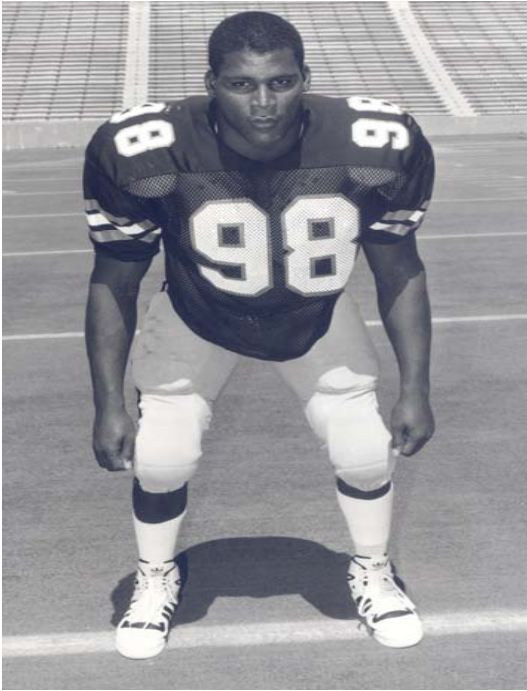
Veterans



<http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.fogcityjournal.com/images/photos/veterans>

Know Faith.

Veterans



www.rd.com/.../article106741-2.html

Greg Gadson, West Point '89

Know Perseverance.

Veterans



Know Friendship.

But More than Anything

Veterans



http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas_shrugs/2007/11/veterans-day.html

Know Love.

Veterans know what the world looks like in the absence of Love.



Death



Fear



Insanity

Uncertainty



Loss



Despair



Chaos



Loneliness

And veterans seem to know best when love is in their midst.



So how do you honor a veteran?



giovanniworld.wordpress.com/.../

Go out of *your* comfort zone at a young age,
as veterans have.

- Be kind, respectful of others
- Stand for the flag even if no one else stands
- Sing your anthem louder than the one next to you
- Help someone in your school who cannot repay you
- Be *grateful* for your freedom...

then *do* something with it. Don't waste the gift.



Most importantly,



Love others the way
a veteran would.



Presented to Canton Middle School

November 11, 2009

Veterans

Dedicated to friend, Stephen Reich
Washington, CT
Died June 28, 2005



Drew Bartkiewicz
West Point '89, Gulf War '91