



Remember the men who can't forget

MEMORIES! A green hell on a South Pacific island. The brackish odor of coral blasted from a reef. The stench of enemy dead bloating in the tropic sun. A shell-swept hill in North Africa. The staccato rip of a German machine gun sweeping the beach at Anzio. The sudden blast of a hidden mine in Normandy. The biting cold and the panic of Bastogne. The jolting, shin-cracking explosion of a torpedo at sea. A suicide plane crashing through the deck of a carrier. Shells smashing into steel, with flying fragments tearing open the bowels of men and machines. Battle stations in the grim dawn. Stale air in a submarine, deep in the black waters of a strange sea alive with lurking death and destruction. Holding steady to course while dark, deadly flowers bloom in the sky. The horror of watching a wingman explode into atoms of bone and flesh. Blacking out in a dive. The searing, antiseptic cold of 20,000 feet. The flame, fear and thunder of bombardment.

Memories that carve into a man's soul. Memories that wake him out of sound sleep, trembling, and dripping with sweat.

Forget? It's not easy for the man with wounds that refuse to heal. It's not easy for the man with mental pictures or sounds that refuse to disappear. It's not easy for the man with muscles frozen by nervous tension.

The dead are buried. Their pain is ended. Their tired bodies have found peace.

But the disabled, the men who embraced age overnight, the men who can never live as God willed the right, still face the uncertain future.

These are the men the American people are thinking about when they give their bit to "Honor the dead by helping the living."

These are the men who are being helped by patriotic Americans when they accept the V.F.W. Buddy Poppy as an eloquent symbol of their own gratitude.

This year the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the organization that has sponsored the sale of Buddy Poppies ever since 1922, is celebrating its Golden Jubilee Anniversary.

In observing this 50th Anniversary, the V.F.W. is proud to renew its pledge to the American people that the proceeds of this annual sale of Buddy Poppies constitute a sacred fund. As in the past, the contribution you make through the purchase of a Buddy Poppy will be spent strictly for these patriotic purposes:

- For the aid, relief and comfort of disabled and needy veterans, their dependents, or their widows and orphans.
- For maintenance or expansion of the V.F.W. National Home for widows and orphans of veterans at Eaton Rapids, Michigan.
- For hospital or individual assistance and entertainment for needy veterans and service patients, and their dependents.
- For rehabilitation, welfare and service work, including liaison service with the Veterans Administration.
- For necessary expenses for military funerals of deceased veterans.
- For acquisition, improvement and maintenance of burial plots and the decoration of graves of veterans and servicemen.

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