

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



THE RISING SUN

As the sun rises across our great country on Sunday morning, it will flash on thousands of "Rising Sun" emblems. Badges of dedication, commitment, courage and sacrifice.

And we give thanks and praise to the men and women who stepped forward, gave up their comforts, changed their lives and in many instances sacrificed their lives so the rest of us could enjoy our freedoms, ways of life and friendships.

For some, it will be a time of sadness. For others, there will be memories of friendships that have withstood the passing of time and circumstances. And for some, a remembered joy at the safe return of a loved one.

At these commemorative dawn services, there may be those who also ponder a sunrise that took place a little over two thousand years ago—a man named Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. A claim believed to be confirmed by many millions worldwide. This man had sacrificed his life on a cross. But when his friends came to visit and pay their respect, the grave was empty. He had said this would happen before his crucifixion.

But why this sacrifice? Throughout time many have sacrificed their lives so others could be free.

The sacrifice of Jesus was made so humanity could again enjoy the freedoms that come with a restored and rebuilt friendship with God The Father. A freedom that comes with knowing you are loved no matter what mistakes, intentional or otherwise, you have made in life. A freedom that brings with it the promise of support to turn things around and start anew.

A "rising sun" is a very appropriate image to highlight and bind together all who have given much to dispel darkness from lives. Our armed forces personnel "gave" so we can all enjoy the freedoms we so value in our society; Freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom to come together.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world", and sacrificed himself to rebuild a personal friendship with God. He offers a spiritual awakening, a life-changing, strengthened desire to remove the darkness of bigotry, one-upmanship and grows a strength of character to act out care, love, which helps people have self-worth. These things bring light into the "community".

In the light of a new day, people will stand together and, with heartfelt sincerity, repeat the time-honoured words,

***"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."***

And we give thanks to God for all who have suffered and died to bring us peace. Peace in its many forms.

God bless you,

Kevin.