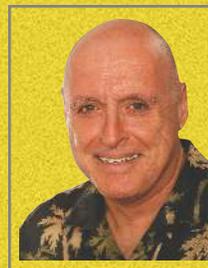


THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



740 Remembering Service Above Self

Two cases of long overdue recognition of service. I'm Jerry Roberts, and that's next, on The Extra Point.

I caught an article a few days ago about two men who died in action, and who were being given special recognition, years after their service.

The first is Thomas Conway, age 37, a Catholic priest who was a Navy chaplain in World War II. As the war was winding down, Conway was aboard the USS Indianapolis, a speedy ship that had been chosen to deliver the components for the atomic bombs that would be used the end the war.

The Indianapolis crossed the Pacific in 10 days, dropping its cargo in Tinian, then refueled here in Guam before heading for Leyte in the Philippines, 1200 miles away.

The ship was torpedoed before reaching its destination, sinking in 12 minutes, killing 300 men instantly and sending 900 into shark-infested waters, without lifeboats, where only 316 were rescued three and-a-half days later.

Father Conway was one of those who did not make it. Survivors said that he swam from group to group of sailors, offering the sacraments of baptism and last rites, and keeping morale up as best he could.

He perished on the fourth day, just before a Navy patrol plane spotted the survivors. He has been awarded the Navy Cross, which is the second highest medal for valor.

Second is Alwyn Cashe, a 35-year-old sergeant first class who served in Iraq. Cashe died from severe burns in 2005, nearly three weeks after his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb.

Initially, Cashe suffered just minor injuries, but

he ran back into the burning vehicle several times to rescue other wounded soldiers who were trapped.

As he did this, he became soaked with fuel, and his clothing and eventually his skin caught fire. He ignored the pain and kept going back into the vehicle to get others.

Cashe was posthumously awarded the Silver Star, but the efforts of many have now elevated his award to the Medal of Honor. Congress supported upgrading it, and sometime after Joe Biden is sworn in as president, the ceremony will take place.

These two awards, for Conway and Cashe, recognize their efforts to comfort their fellow men, or to save them, in moments of crisis, and at risk to their own lives. It's shining a light on service to others.

It's unlikely that you or I will ever be called upon to make such a sacrifice, to help people we work with.

Yet, when we do put our worries aside, step up and help somebody out of a jam, or to get further and do better, in a small way we align ourselves with a time-honored tradition of service above self. Something to think about today.

That's The Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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