

I sure hope y'all survived the Memorial Day weekend. What a great tribute to our fallen comrades—the best of “small-town America”, right here in our own backyards. Observances were conducted throughout the county and they were well-attended. We thank you. And, a special thanks to Mr. Aaron Nelson and his advanced history class—the Rams stood very tall on this Memorial Day.

Don't hang up if you get a call! The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will soon begin contacting nearly 570,000 recent combat veterans to ensure they know about medical services and other benefits for which they may be eligible. They plan to reach out to every veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A contractor-operated “Combat Veteran Call Center” will telephone two distinct populations of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. In the first phase, about 17,000 veterans who were sick or injured while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan will be contacted. The second phase of calling will target 500,000 OIF-OEF veterans who have been discharged from active duty, but who have not contacted the VA for services. REMEMBER-For five years after discharge from the military, OEF-OIF combat veterans have special access to VA health care. So, you can wait for this call, or you can get ahead of the pack and call me, and we can get you in the VA system now!

I've thought for some time, about putting the following in one of these articles, and I guess this time of remembrance is the right time for it. I don't know who wrote it, but I have had it hanging in my offices ever since I commanded my first flying outfit. It doesn't just pertain to aviators, or men or the military; it's meant for everyone. It should speak to you. It did and still does, to me. In this life, we get chances to influence those around us in many ways and I hope that we all think about the possible life-changing consequences of our influence. Here it is:

THE TROOP WHO RODE ONE IN

*We should all bear one thing in
mind when we talk about a troop
who rode one in.*

*He called upon the sum of all his
knowledge and made a judgment.*

*He believed in it so strongly
that he knowingly bet his life on it.*

*That he was mistaken in his
judgment is a tragedy...
not
stupidity.*

*Every supervisor and contemporary
who ever spoke to him
had an opportunity to influence
his judgment...*

*...so a little bit of all of us
goes in
with every troop we lose.*

Think about it.

Over and Out!

it.