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Putting our appreciation to the men and women in the military into action

(Editor's Note: The author of this new, monthly column is a syndicated writer and is writing this column for The Guardian as her way of expressing the public's appreciation for all the Connecticut Guardsmen and women do. An address appears at the end of this column for comments.)

In the seventeenth century, poet Thomas Stanley wrote his definition of success, "To leave the world a bit better...by a redeemed social condition; To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; This is to have succeeded."

How many millions breathe easier because evil doers are stopped?

"To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; This is to have succeeded."

Encouragement is so heavily sought after by those who fight for our freedom. Did you know that true joy can be found in the simple things, the letters of love from an adult or a sweet child and above all our prayers?

God repeats the word *love* hundreds of times in His Scripture.

"Love one another, as I have loved you." John 13:34.

"Love thy neighbor as yourself." James 2:8.

"Be likeminded, have the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Philippians 2:2.

"If you love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15.

Therefore, we must have love, God's love, because that love never fails.

I love the parable that Jesus told about the Good Samaritan.

Recently, I read this story to my young daughters. There was a man, lying hurt and wounded on the roadside. A passerby walked on the opposite side of the road, looked across toward the helpless man, but he did not cross over the other side to assist him. Another person came hurrying along, anxious to get out of the desolate area before nightfall. He passed when he reached the wounded man, and turned away without offering any aid. Then, along that lonely road came a man riding on his donkey. He stopped immediately, and ran to the man's side. "This man needs my help," the Samaritan thought, as he bound up the stranger's wounds and lifted him onto the back of his donkey. The Good Samaritan walked beside the poor man, holding him

on his donkey until they reached the inn, and cared for him all night. In the morning, when the Samaritan had to leave, he gave the landlord money and asked him to take care of the injured man. "And if this is not enough," he said, "spend more and I will repay you when I come back through this way again."

Our military men and women are our Good Samaritans. They are really doing something to help the world. They understand the powers of the universe, and know that as they do good, blessings will return a hundredfold. And they can experience peace of mind, and live in calm contentment as we thank God daily for them and ask for their protection.

This is our part, to support, comfort, and show kindness like a sheltering tree that enfolds all in its sweet shade. When they walk the road of life together, they know that there will be burdens all along the way. However, if we pray, we will put them underneath God's sheltering arms.

A week or so ago, with their tiny fingers pointing to the sky, my two daughters joyfully exclaimed, "Look Mommy, look at all the geese!"

Then they asked, "Why are they flying in a 'V'?"

I explained, "They fly in a "V" formation to help one another. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates strength for the bird closely following. The flock of birds gains greater flying strength by flying together, because each goose gets help from the previous one. And, they do not get as tired, flying collectively."

What an awesome lesson God has given to us.

Let us uphold our men and women of the military in prayer, nourishing them with encouragement, expressing our gratitude, and thanking them for each wonderful life that gives our country real victory.

That absolute true victory is found the joy, peace, and contentment of praying to God and doing all in His name to bless another.

Thank you Soldiers, for defending us and blessing us.

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