

# American Inspiration



## *American Weekly Inspiration*

### Thoughts for today and every day:

“The great lesson is that the sacred is in the ordinary, that it is to be found in one’s daily life, in one’s neighbors, friends, and family, in one’s backyard.” Abraham Maslow (1908-1970) psychologist

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“It is better to be nobly remembered than nobly born.”

John Ruskin (1819-1900) critic and social theorist

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“Think all you speak, but speak not all you think. Thoughts are your own; your words are not.” Patrick Delaney (c. 1685-1768) cleric

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“You can find on the outside only what you possess on the inside.” Adolfo Montiel Ballesteros, La Honda Y La Flor

### American Update:

Many students are in the midst of final exams for the semester and looking forward to being out for the Christmas holidays. When January comes around, we will be in full swing with contests beginning and conventions as well. One Day Dance Intensives will continue into January to prepare everyone for contests, tryouts and spring shows. Make sure to visit our web site for dates and locations at [www.DanceADTS.com](http://www.DanceADTS.com).

### Inspiration of the Week:

#### **A Special Christmas Poem**

*The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.*

*My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.*

*Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,  
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.*

*My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.  
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,  
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.*

*The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the  
sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.*

*My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.  
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.*

*A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old, huddled here in the  
cold.*

*Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.*

*"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,  
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,  
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"*

*For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..  
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light*

*Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,  
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."*

*"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
That separates you from the darkest of times.  
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,  
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.*

*My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December,"  
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas that 'Gram always  
remembers."*

*My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ' Nam  
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.*

*I've not seen my own son in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.*

*Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.  
I can live through the cold and the being alone,  
Away from my family, my house and my home.*

*I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.  
I can carry the weight of killing another,  
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..  
Who stand at the front against any and all,  
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."*

*"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,  
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."  
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,  
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?  
It seems all too little for all that you've done,  
For being away from your wife and your son."*

*Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.  
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,  
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.  
For when we come home, either standing or dead,  
To know you remember we fought and we bled.  
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,  
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."*

*LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN  
30th Naval Construction Regiment  
OIC, Logisti*

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