



By Pat Haggerty

Over the Memorial Day weekend, I happened to be in a store with my brother-in-law, a retired Army officer. He was wearing his baseball hat that had embroidered on it "Retired Army." One of the sales clerks came up to my brother-in-law and thanked him for his service. Dick, my brother-in-law, was genuinely moved. I could tell that he was touched by the young man's kindness but also very proud of his time in the military.

We owe so much to those who have served our country. They have given of themselves, and some have given their lives, so that we can live in a country that is free. Let us thank them often and not just on a holiday weekend!

When we say the word "service," it can conjure up many things and not just military service. It brings to mind reaching out to others, helping those in need and making a connection with those isolated in our society. We all can serve in many ways---big and small. Mother Teresa has left us that legacy. She once said, "May we never forget that in the service to the poor we are offered a magnificent opportunity to do something beautiful for God." (From *Mother Teresa: No Greater Love*)

We are reminded of the different forms of service in one of the readings for Pentecost Sunday. It is from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual

the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.” (12:4-7)

We have been endowed with the gifts of the Spirit. We have been given different gifts and different talents. It is up to each of us to use them in service and for the glory of God. We are united in the Spirit but unique in our gifts. It is our responsibility to nurture our gifts and to allow them to blossom. During this season that is virtually erupting with the beauty of nature, may we be inspired to let our own gifts erupt for the service of Him who has bestowed them.