

"At no period of the naval history of the world is it probable that [U. S.] Marines were more important than during the War of the Revolution. The history of the [U. S.] Navy, even at that early day, as well as in these later times, abounds with instances of the gallantry and self-devotion of this body of [maritime] soldiers." ~ James Fenimore Cooper

Veterans Day

Veteran's Day is one of the most revered days on the yearly calendar and we pause to remember those who sacrificed so much in their service to our country. It is right that we do so, but our company would like this year to also pay special tribute to those men and women whose service, for many of our veterans, made it possible for veterans to live *to be* veterans—those who served in all of the military branches' various medical corps. Or, as is evident in the title of a history about the Medical Corps during World War II written after that conflict was over; 'That Men Might Live.' The prayer below was written by Colonel John J. Moorhead, M.C., who served at Tripler General Hospital in Honolulu in the early days of World War II:

God of Battle, grant that the wounded may swiftly arrive at their hospital haven, so that the safeguards of modern surgery may surround them, to the end that their pain is assuaged and their broken bodies are mended. Grant me as a surgeon, gentle skill and intelligent foresight to bar the path to such sordid enemies as shock, hemorrhage and infection. Give me plentifully the blood of their non-combatant fellow man, so that their vital fluid may be replaced and thus make all the donor people realize that they, too, have given their life's blood in a noble cause. Give me the instruments of my calling so that my work may be swift and accurate; but provide me with resourceful ingenuity so that I may do without bounteous supplies. Strengthen my hand, endow me with valiant energy to go through day and night; and keep my heart and brain attuned to duty and great opportunity. Let me never forget that a life or a limb is in my keeping and do not let my judgment falter. Enable me to give renewed courage and hope to the living and comfort to the dying. Let me never forget that in the battles to be won, I, too, must play my part, to the glory of a great calling and as a follower of the Great Physician. Amen.

At the bottom of his prayer, he has appended the note, 'Christmas Night, 1941.' Only three short weeks had passed since the carnage of Pearl Harbor when he penned these words on a day the world observed the birth of the Prince of Peace. And it is noteworthy that he remarks that everyone had a part to play in winning that war and restoring peace to a fractured world, including civilians and others who were out of harm's way, but who gave their blood "in a noble cause." And perhaps few played a more vital role than the doctors, nurses, and medics in making it possible for us to revere so many veterans on this Veteran's Day.