



*Benediction*  
*United Veterans of Wars*  
*Lehigh County Government Center*  
*Allentown*  
*November 11, 2013*

**We end this commemoration today knowing that when tomorrow comes, there will be fewer among us who personally remember the battles of World War II. There will be fewer who flew the flak-filled skies of Europe; fewer who suffered the rigors of ground combat; fewer who navigated the dangerous waters of the Pacific.**

**We are thankful for their willingness to respond to their nation's call; thankful for their willingness to fight side-by-side with and for their comrades; thankful for the sacrifices they made for freedom. As they join those who have gone before them into eternal life, we remember them, and we honor their memory.**

**Their ranks are replenished by those whose memories are fresher and whose wounds are more recent. Their numbers are growing, and we honor them as well.**

**May we give thanks to those whose lives now have been tempered by the hardships of war; and to those whose minds and bodies are scarred by the experience of war.**

**May we pay our debt of honor to all our veterans by providing resources for those who have born the burden of battle, and for the widows, widowers, partners and children left behind.**

**As they will never forget, may we never forget them. Amen.**

*(adapted from a benediction by Reverend F. Michael Knight)*