

Lest We Forget Love

Loving acts helps our love last a lifetime

By: Barbara Dickson

October 9, 1943, quivered in its infancy, less than an hour old, when a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the American war ship, U.S.S. Buck, off the coast of Italy. The sinking was tragic like so many other horrific events during the Second World War. A new day just beginning, 166 men would not live to see its dawn.

Comdr Michael Klein, commanding officer of the U.S.S. Buck, died that fateful morning. His precious few belongings sank with him to his grave. Among his possessions were letters from his beloved wife, Jacqueline.

"I knew I loved you the first time I kissed you," her words spoke from the page, "and that knowledge has never left me; yet it is only in separation that love knows its own depth."

Jacqueline's intimate, longing missiles of love had kept Michael's heart yearning for home.

"Nothing exists which could destroy this love and faith which I have in you," Michael penned, "and it has become part of my life, accepted as God's gift, in answer to my dreams and prayers."

Michael and Jacqueline possessed a precious gift. They understood the fragility of life. They cherished their love. They longed for each other when they were apart.

U.S.S. Buck floundered in less than 15 minutes and, as Michael's last breath ebbed from his lungs, so did his hopes, and dreams, and the ability to show the depth of his love.

"Lest we forget" helps us remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. In a small way, we say thank-you by honouring their deaths. But do we stop to reflect on their lives?

Almost 60 years later, our experience of world war exists only in the foggy,

misty recesses of our imagination. Back on the millennial homefront, we read about old-fashioned, wartime love stories and perhaps think that that kind of love doesn't exist anymore. Was that deep abiding, forever kind of love from another time, another place? It doesn't have to be that way. Many of us can remember the days of dating and courting. We fondly recall the jittery anticipation in meeting our loved one. Memories of tender moments shared come to mind. We think back to our early days of marriage

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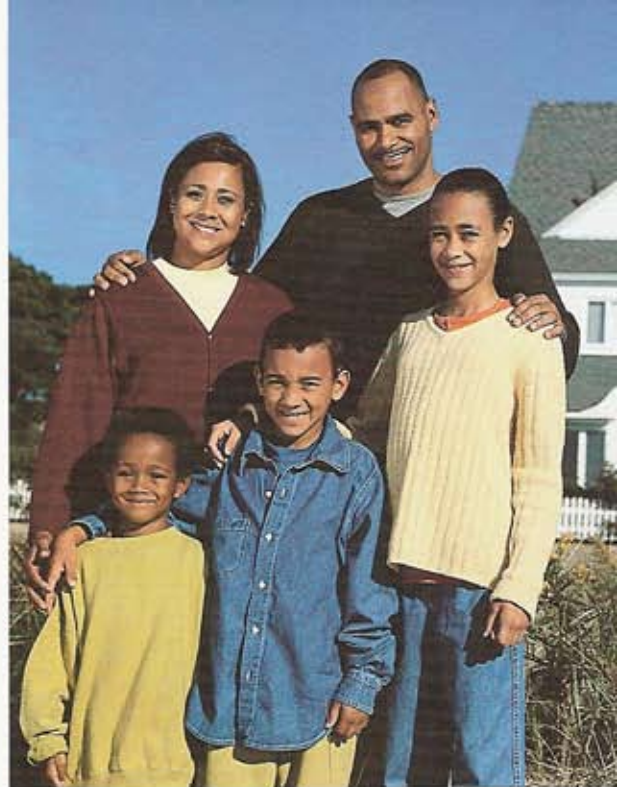
when we helped and encouraged one another, sharing each other's dreams.

But the reality of life moves in, and life moves on. Years pass and we find ourselves yearning for the flame that once burned in our heart for our beloved. When did love's fire sputter and romance's fervour waver?

As we stop on the 11th hour of the 11th day of November, perhaps we can pause to rekindle our own love's flame as a tribute to those who truly loved and died.

How do we revive the passion in our life, in our marriage, in our home? One simple word shows us the way: "Remember."

Remember not only to say "I love you," but also to show "I love you." Remember to offer a listening ear and remember what was said. Remember to ask: "What can I do to help carry the burdens in your life?" Remember that we truly are more blessed when we give



than when we receive. Remember to pay attention and to get involved. Remember that no one should bear the responsibilities in the home alone. Remember to share everything: chores, decisions, children, ourselves.

Remember that time is precious; give it freely. And remember that today may be all we have. The promise of tomorrow belongs to no one.

Today there's little need to communicate by pen and paper and post. E-mail, virtual chat rooms, video technology, cellphones, and pagers connect the world. When we want to say, "I love you," we have a myriad of ways to say it. But while the method of delivery has changed, the message remains the same. Lest we forget. ☺

Rekindling the Flame

- Try these simple acts to recharge your love.
- Spend time together alone. Take a walk, or enjoy a meal.
 - Listen. Really listen.
 - Enjoy a common interest together. Golf, bike or garden. The hobby doesn't matter. Just enjoy it together.
 - Hold hands. Offer a backrub. Touch when you talk.
 - Surprise your loved one. Wash the floors, wash the car, or wash the kids.
 - Spend time with God. Pray together. Ask God to honour your relationship.