



## UPDATING OF BY-LAWS FOR OAKWOOD GLEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Special points of interest:

- Updating of by-laws
- Oakwood Glen Calendar
- Public Safety Appreciation Day
- Baby sitting, pet sitting and lawn work
- Welcome Neighbor
- Global Lesson

### Inside this issue:

August Board Meeting;  
Sponsorship of sport  
teams

Barbara Bush Library  
events; Oakwood Glen  
Calendar; Volunteers  
needed

Oakwood Glen Public  
Safety Appreciation

Baby Sitting; Pet Sitting;  
Lawn

Welcome Neighbor;  
September Recipe;  
Constable Statistics,  
From the Garden; For

Global Lesson; Direc-  
tors needed

Back  
Cover

Over this past year there have been a number of people who have given of their time and energy to help bring the Oakwood Glen By-laws up to the 21st century. There were about 13 people, most non-board members who helped to craft the language of the proposed amendments to the OWG By-laws.

Please understand the importance of the by-laws, they are the governing document that controls not only how this board must behave but how future boards must behave. The proposed amendments were drafted based on the new

laws governing HOA. The process that was followed was as follows:

The original by-laws were compared to the current laws, proposed changes were made and those changes were discussed and altered by the By-law committee until a final set was arrived at. This set was voted on by the OWG Board of Directors and was then sent to our attorney, Mr. Michael Gainer for his review and final draft. Once that final draft is returned to the board a complete copy of the proposed amended by-laws will

be mailed to each member/homeowner. It is hoped that we will have 2 months worth of board meetings for members to come and discuss; ask questions or disagree. The board has moved the annual meeting to sometime in November in order to allow for proper discussion of the proposed changes and amendments. Please know that each proposed change and amendment can be voted on separately, this is not an all or nothing approach. I will be available to homeowners who may have questions or concerns to discuss those problems

to the best of my ability. At the Annual Meeting the proxy will contain only those issues that have proposed changes and amendments to the by-laws, so please hold onto your full copy of the proposed amended by-laws. Thanks to all of the people in the community that have contributed to this process and I hope all of our members will see the reason for the proposed changes and amendments.

Thank you

John L. Hill, President

### Retraction

At the August board meeting I told the members and the other board members that Director Glenn Granath had done something that might put the association at risk. After speaking with Glenn I realize that I did not authenticate the information provided to me before accusing Glenn of something. It is a mistake that I will not make again. I offer my apologies to Glenn Granath and his family for my remarks at the August meeting. When I spoke with Glenn he also felt that a retraction in the ACORN would help to slow the damage that may have been done by my remarks. Again Glenn Granath was not the person who may have put this association at risk by an action that included the Constable contract for Oakwood Glen. Thanks for accepting my apology Glenn.

John L. Hill

## Oakwood Glen Yard of the Month

THANK YOU !!!

ANTONIA R. RODRIGUEZ

MISAELO. RODRIGUEZ

7010 RIVER MILL DR



## AUGUST BOARD MEETING

The August Board meeting was held on August 9<sup>th</sup> at the Back Park at 7PM. Eleven residents and 5 board directors (enough for a quorum) attended. Constable Truck Diaz gave the monthly crime report (see separate article.) Both he and his supervisor, Sgt. Dan Zientek personally thanked Oakwood Glen for the recent Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Neither remembers any other subdivision extending such a concrete pat on the back for the hard work they do.

### Business discussed:

1. Soccer goal nets ordered will be in place shortly.
2. The Board voted to sponsor our children's sports teams-see separate article.
3. President Hill will explore more details on leasing an ice machine for the clubhouse. The leasing company would be responsible for maintenance and "no slime in the ice machine."
4. Discussion on the reinstitution of a fee for clubhouse rental. Recent events held there have proved that "if people don't pay for it, they don't take care of it." Consolidated Management Rep., Anita Ashmore advised us that OWG is one of very few communities not charging a rental fee for use.
5. Pres. Hill and volunteers are painting the clubhouse interior. Come and check out the 'sumptuous peach' change at the September 13<sup>th</sup>

meeting at 7PM.

6. Center Point will install the new streetlight at the Front Park by the end of August.
7. Director Brittany Daine has resigned. With two more years remaining, the Board and residents unanimously voted in Greg Gillis to fill her position. Greg and his wife, Linda, have lived in Oakwood Glen since 1998.
8. The Annual Meeting will be postponed until November. The By-Law changes are still with our attorney. They will be mailed out so residents have a full 60 days to review and discuss prior to voting on said changes.
9. Nomination Chairman, Director Michael Harris, advised there are 3 board positions up for election. Director Gaynell Lira has indicated she will run for re-election and resident Luis Romano has volunteered as a candidate. See their bios in separate article. If you would like to run for one of these openings please see article in this issue or call Mike Harris at 281-370-5056. **YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS You!** -Staff Reporter-

### DIRECTORS NEEDED

Every year three director positions turn over on the board. Individuals are needed to run for these positions. If you are willing to assist your community, please step forward. There are two methods to have your name entered on the ballot, or to be considered for the board. (1.) Contact the nominating committee - Director Michael Harris, 281.370.5056 or [mjhmh5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjhmh5@sbcglobal.net). Or (2.) Nominations can be accepted at the annual meeting. Just be aware, if you select the second method, your name will not be on the proxy ballot mailed to all eligible homeowners prior to the meeting, and your name may not come before all of the eligible voters.

### GAYNELL LIRA

I have been a resident of Oakwood Glen for 27 years. I have presently been on the board for two years, currently holding the position of Treasurer. We have accomplished many things for our community and we are still working on projects that will affect the amenities of our community. This will keep us a marketable community for selling of our homes whenever that may be. I worked on the removal of the dumpster issue at the apartments on Oakwood Glen. It took three months to resolve this issue, but it was finally completed. I continue to work on the burned building at the entrance to our community. I have received help from the Health Department, but presently, this ongoing issue is not resolved. I was Co-Chair of our recent July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. During my tenure on the board and as a resident homeowner I have assisted in numerous community functions.

I am employed with a commercial real estate management company, so I understand many things in keeping with the financial aspect as well as the marketing of our community. I would appreciate your vote so I can be part of the ongoing issues that remain to be resolved.

### Luis Romano

It is difficult to condense a great life of almost 49 years into a short biography. I would like you all to know I was born in Argentina where I served in the army. I was wounded in The Falklands War in 1982. In 1983, I moved to Spring, Texas as a foreign exchange student. I received my B.A. in Economics and B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Houston in 1989. My wife, Lara, and I have been married 14 years. We moved to OWG in 1995. I opened my own transportation business in 1991 and am proud to say the company is now in 64 countries. In 2001, I became a United States citizen. I learned from my parents and through the years with Boy Scouts (Eagle Scout in 1972) that we have a duty to serve and help others. I ask for the chance to serve and bring my energy to the Oakwood Glen Board. I ask for your vote.

## GO OAKWOOD GLEN STRIKERS !!!!

As another positive step in promoting Oakwood Glen, the Board voted to sponsor 3 sports teams per season for the young people of OWG. This will be on a first come, first served basis. Thirty percent of the team will have to be OWG residents. The contribution per team will not exceed \$500. Good

sportsmanship and good conduct are pre-requisites for consideration.

Like many other communities who sponsor neighborhood swim teams this will advertise our subdivision and emphasize our involvement in our children's activities.

The first team awarded sponsorship is the OAKWOOD GLEN STRIKERS.

This team is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade girl's soccer team joining the fall season of the Klein Soccer Club. The Acorn will keep you posted on their season and game time for those who would like to cheer them on. GO STRIKERS!! -M.Harris-

## **BARBARA BUSH LIBRARY—SEPTEMBER EVENTS**

**DISPLAYS**-First Floor -“Puppets on Parade”, Second Floor -“Playful, Sleek & Modern,” decorative objects made by designers from 1930’s-2001.

**Book Clubs**-Sept.13-Evening Book Club-7-9PM-The Speed of Dark by Elizabeth Moon. Sept.22-Afternoon Book Club-1: 30-3:30PM-Princess Sultana’s Circle by Jean Sasson. Sept. 19-The Great Books Discussion Group-7-9PM-Utilitarianism by John Stuart Mill.

**Computer Classes**-Seven Classes -Class size limited-Call the library at 281-376-4610 to register or for more info.

**Database Demonstrations**-Sept.22-7:30PM-Learn how to use Learning Express Library, the Literature Resource Center, Twentieth Century American

& English Poetry, and Biographies Plus at the E-Books (Reference & Study Guides)

**ADULT PROGRAMS**-Sept. 17-9AM-3: 30PM-ESL Volunteer Training- the library is seeking volunteers to help adults learn to read, write & speak English. It isn’t necessary to be bilingual. The library provides materials and support. More info-call the library. Sept.9-3-5pm-KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE. Program features knitting, crocheting, genealogy, and scrap booking for all ages. Guest speakers & time to share info. Speaker will be from “Twisted Yarns”, 702 Spring Cypress Rd. Discuss-Yarn & its History. Assistance in knitting & crochet-ing will be available.

**YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS**-

Thursday Afternoons-4: 30-6PM-Sept. 1-Movie with Popcorn & Soda, Sept. 8-Wild Locker & Desk Organizers.

Saturday Afternoon Computer Club: Sept.10 & 24-2-4PM-“Having Fun with PowerPoint.

**STORYTIMES**-Preschool (3-6Yrs.) Mon.7PM, Tues.11AM & 2PM, Wed.11AM.

Lap sit Story time (0-15 months) Mon. 2PM

*Toddler Times (16 months-3 yrs.)-Wed. 10AM, Thurs. 11AM.*

*Bilingual Story time (Spanish/English)(3-6Yrs.) Wed. 1:30PM.*

*5,6,7, 8 Story time (5-8 Yrs.) Thurs. 4:30PM.*

**\*\*September 24-Annual Puppet Festival\*\*** See all kinds of Puppet Shows!

## **OAKWOOD GLEN CALENDAR**

September 5-Labor Day Holiday

September 13-Board Meeting-Back Park-7PM

September 22-Deed Restriction Meeting-7PM\*

October 10-No School-Student Holiday

October 11-Board Meeting-Back Park-7PM

October 20-Deed Restriction Meeting-7PM\*

October 31-Halloween

\*=Location will be announced on marquee

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The following committees need volunteers. If you can help, call Elana Davenport at 281-376-8639.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**ACTIVITIES**

**WELCOME WAGON**

## **FIRST AID TIPS**

The other day my husband encountered a very angry red wasp that decided to defend his turf at the paper-recycling bin. I can’t say size won, as a big red welt almost immediately appeared and caused a grown man to flee the scene.

What to do to help ease the pain? First thing, find Benedryl, next thought check the Internet for some sort of hint on quick relief.

Yes, Mother Earth News.com! Subject: Bees and other Bugs.

“Let’s start with the bee or wasp sting you didn’t count on but now have. Two simple remedies are effective, depending on the type of sting. If it’s a bee sting, prepare a paste of baking soda and water and apply to the area. Bee stings contain formic acid, so and alkaline baking soda helps to neutralize them. If on the other hand you’ve been stung by a wasp, reach for some vinegar. Vinegar contains acetic acid and will help to neutralize the wasp’s more alkaline sting.”

Great! No trip to Walgreen’s - just simply opening the refrigerator door to access

the vinegar. A quick debate on the choice of cider vinegar or white vinegar and then just grabbing one, as the victim’s distress grew louder. A small cup, a quick pour, and almost immediate relief by simply “marinating,” excuse me, “soaking” the swollen finger. The Benedryl kicked in later and had the patient quietly napping on the couch for most of the afternoon-much to my relief!

M.Harris -

## **OAKWOOD GLEN PUBLIC SAFETY APPRECIATION DAY**

Oakwood Glen held the first Public Safety Appreciation Day on August 6<sup>th</sup> in the Back Park from 11AM to 8PM. Honored guests were our own Constables, Nathan Wells and Truck Diaz, and other Constables from our Precinct who back them up on a daily basis. As a thank you for their continual support and service to our community, Klein Volunteer Fire Department attended as special guests. Besides their obvious fire protection duties, they never hesitate when asked to participate in every special event planned in Oakwood Glen.

Barbecue with all the trimmings was available for both daytime and evening shifts to enjoy. Board members cooked the meal and served to at least 30 firefighters and approximately 50 Constables. No one deserves more thanks than these public servants who work tireless shifts and put their life on the line daily for all of us.

All those in uniform that day were delighted and most appreciative. Seasoned constables who have been on the job for many years could not recall any other subdivision in the area EVER taking the time or trouble to do something like this for them.

Since we missed the official Law Enforcement Recognition Day held in May, both our Constables were singled out and given pocketknives as a token of appreciation.

It is impossible to measure the good will this event generated. Oakwood Glen will certainly be remembered for taking the time to say thanks. This will go along way in promoting our subdivision as a safe place to live, and work. – M.Harris-



*Shirley*  
*Truck Diaz*  
*Nathan Wells*

*John Thomas*  
*Thank you for all the help and support that you have given us*

*Jeff Johnson*

*James English*

*A new day thank you and let's get back to work*

*Your thoughtful words*

*Wendy in Fire Department*

*John Hattie*  
*Chief*

*Thank you for all the help and support that you have given us*

*I'm still in the game*





Need a baby-sitter so you can plan a romantic night out? Need someone to feed "Fluffy" for the weekend? More leaves than you can handle? These Oakwood Glen residents can help fill those needs. If you don't see your name and want to be listed please email the Editor at [taxsales@swbell.net](mailto:taxsales@swbell.net) or mail the information to Oakwood Glen Newsletter, 17726 Mellow Ridge, Spring, Texas 77379.

### **BABYSITTING**

Sarah Bentley	17	Seven Pines	281-251-7620	Katherine Birkline	16	Stoney River	281-370-4344
Matt Brinkman, KVFD	13	Seven Pines	281-370-4472	Emily Dyson, KVFD	13	Seven Pines	281-379-5081
Rachel Harris	14	Ten Curves Rd	281-376-9095	Kayli Hubbard	12	Ten Curves Ct	281-370-7787
Justin Hubbard	15	Ten Curves Ct	281-374-7787	Laura Hutchings	13	Seven Pines Dr	281-376-2615
Liz Nicknish, KVFD	16	Seven Pines Dr	281-320-8684	Claire Perschke	13	Windy Point	281-717-3010
Lauren S Wood, KVFD	15	Sandy Knolls	281-370-4297	Elizabeth Moseley	15	Huntbrook	281-257-0257
Jenny Timaspolsky	15	Falling Waters	281-257-0933	Theresa M. Villarreal, KVFD	13	Falling Waters	281-257-1421
Brittany Wishard, KVFD	13	Stoney River	281-379-2278				

### **PET SITTING**

August Aranda	13	Mellow Ridge	281-257-9975	Matt Brinkman	13	Seven Pines Dr	281-370-4472
Katherine Birkline	16	Stoney River	281-370-4344	Marcus Chevalier	16	Stoney River Ct	281-655-1622
Rachel Harris	14	Ten Curves Rd	281-376-9095	Katherine (Kat) Higdon	14	Smooth Rock Falls	713-478-5527
Kayli Hubbard	12	Ten Curves Ct	281-370-7787	Laura Hutchings	13	Seven Pines Dr	281-376-2615
Justin Hubbard	15	Ten Curves Ct	281-374-7787	Liz Nicknish	16	Seven Pines Dr	281-320-8684
Stephen Nicknish	12	Seven Pines	281-320-8684	Claire Perschke	13	Windy Point Dr	832-717-3010
Ben & Sarah Moseley	12	Huntbrook	281-257-0257	Cody Terrell		Ten Curves	281-379-3981
Jenny Timaspolsky	15	Falling Waters	281-257-0933	Blythe Tyrone	13	Smooth Rock Falls	281-379-5290
Lauren Wood	12	Sandy Knolls Dr	281-370-4297				

### **LAWN MOWING & YARDWORK**

Rachel Harris	14	Ten Curves Rd	281-376-9095	August Aranda	13	Mellow Ridge	281-257-9975
Kayli Hubbard	12	Ten Curves Ct	281-370-7787	Justin Hubbard	15	Ten Curves Ct	281-370-7787
Ben, Peter & Sara Moseley	12	Huntbrook	281-257-0257	Brandon Rutledge	13	Mellow Ridge	281-770-3089
Cody Terrell	10	Ten Curves	281-379-3981				

## **IMPORTANT NUMBERS/DIRECTORS**

### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

John L. Hill, Pres/Maintenance	Glenn Granath, Director	Suite 245, The Woodlands, Texas 77380	Animal Control 281-999-3191	Field Reservation (Back Park) 281-296-9775
Greg Gillis, Director	Email for directors: Owgbrd@hotmail.com	Editor ACORN.. John L. Hill...281-370-7368; 17726 Mellow Ridge; email: <a href="mailto:taxsales@swbell.net">taxsales@swbell.net</a>	Back Park Clubhouse Rental 281-370-5392	MUD Building Co-ordinator 281-251-5822
Elana Davenport, Sec.	Oakwood Glen Association		Barbara Bush Library 281-286-4610	J&S Trash Service 281-449-0894
Michael Harris, V Pres.	C/O Consolidated Management Company		Constable Precinct 4/Dispatch 281-376-3472	Hayes Utility (Water/Sewer) 281-353-9756
Edward Diggs, Director/ACC	Anita Ashmore, Ph: 281-296-9775; Fax: 281-296-9788 or email <a href="mailto:anitaashmore@yahoo.com">anitaashmore@yahoo.com</a> ; address 2204 Timberloch Place,		Harris County Precinct 4 281-353-8424	Poison Control 1-800-222-1222
Al Haire, Director/Security			Comm. Jerry Eversole <a href="http://www.cp4.hctx.net">www.cp4.hctx.net</a>	Fire & Ambulance 911
Al Zolli, Director				
Gaynell Lira, Treasurer				

## **WELCOME NEIGHBOR**

There hasn't been a moving van on Five Forks, but convoys of dump trucks, brigades of bulldozers and the steady stream of construction workers wearing hard hats signal that Oakwood Glen is getting a new neighbor.

The simple cross erected at 16000 Stuebner Airline could be missed with the kinetic movement of dirt, pipes and steel. A closer look reveals a sign proudly announcing the transformation in progress as future home of Faithbridge Church.

Pastor Ken Werlein and 7 members started Faithbridge Church in 1998. Services were first held in Pastor Werlein's apartment. As their numbers increased they moved to private homes, then to temporary quarters in Kids R Kids. Since 1999 they have used Kleb Intermediate for Sunday services. Today the congregation has grown to 1000 and a permanent worship center is an immediate focus.

In April 2001 the Faithbridge building team, searching for just the right location, settled on the Benfer tract of 64.9 acres. Here a 55,000 sq.ft. multi-purpose worship and teaching center is currently under construction. The design embraces not only a contemporary and airy feel, but also the added openness that is reminiscent of Kleb Intermediate. The glass atrium/ lobby and worship center comprise the center core of the structure. Two wings, like open arms, extend on both sides. One will house administration, prayer and meeting rooms. The other holds children's classrooms. An informal, casual approach in architecture allows for the worship center to be converted to a basketball court or banquet area. Ring roads will surround the building with three entrances and exits on Stuebner Airline. Constables will control traffic for Sunday services. Two retention ponds, one clearly visible at the front of the property, and one to the rear ensure that flooding is not an issue. In keeping with the Faithbridge philosophy of being "good stewards" of the land, they feel sure that they can make the overall appearance of the mandatory ponds a part of the landscaping. Already we can see that instead of using the "clear cut" method of site development, they chose to save trees and build beyond a grove of old oaks.

It should be noted, there is access available for an additional entrance on Five Forks but plans for this stage are at least 10 years away.

Tom Reitmeier, an executive with Faithbridge, says that once building is completed in the spring of 2006, they will find ways to acquaint people with Faithbridge and showcase their new home. Tom adds, "we consider ourselves a neighbor and our intent is to be a neighbor to the communities around us." -M.Harris -

### **September Recipe Corner**

#### **Peach Cobbler**

Batter:

1 1/2 cup melted butter	1-cup flour	1-cup sugar	2 teaspoons baking powder
1 1/4 teaspoon salt		2 2/3 cup milk -room temperature	
1 egg-room temperature			

Filling:

1 (29 oz.) can sliced peaches-drained	1-cup sugar
1-teaspoon cinnamon	1 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg

Melt butter-pour into a 9X13 pan. Mix together flour, sugar, baking powder & salt.

Stir in milk and egg.

Pour evenly over melted butter in pan. Combine peaches, sugar & spices and spread over batter. DO NOT STIR!!

Bake-35-45 minutes until batter comes to the top and is golden brown. Serve warm with ice cream. Serves 12.

### **MONTHLY CONSTABLE STATISTICS**

Type of Activity	July 2005
Burglary of a Habitation	2
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1
Theft from a Habitation	1

**continued next page**

**Continued from previous page**

		Criminal Mischief	5	Suspicious Persons	4
<u>Type of Activity</u>	July 2005	<u>Type of Activity</u>	July 2005	<u>Type of Activity</u>	July 2005
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0	Disturbance – family	1	Runaways	0
Theft—Other	0	Disturbance—Juvenile	2	Telephone Harassment	0
Robbery	0	Disturbance—Other	11	Other Calls	34
Assault	0	Alarms	13		
Sexual Assault	0	Suspicious Vehicles	4		

**FROM THE GARDEN**

You don't need tickets to the Air Show at Ellington Field to get front row seats to aerodynamic acrobatics. Simply hang up a humming bird feeder in your garden and get ready to witness aerial prowess at its best. Humming birds have been spotted in our vicinity all summer but now they are migrating south to Mexico and Central America. Though their solid food consists of tiny insects, they supplement with sugary snacks of flower nectar and the simple syrup you can brew and hang in your feeder. These perpetual motion machines need a lot of nourishment as they live on fat reserves during their non-stop flights of more than 500 miles across the Gulf of Mexico. With a constant wing beat as high as 80 beats a second and a heart beat rate of 1,260 beats a minute, they need to feed every 10 minutes during the day. They consume half their body weight in sugar each day. One hummingbird can visit as many as 1,000 flowers a day!

**Humming Bird Facts:**

1. Hummers weigh 1 /10 of an oz. -less than a pencil.
2. Nest-the size of a walnut.
3. Eggs-two, the size of peas.
4. Natural enemies-cats, owls, hawks, lizards, snakes and praying mantis.
5. Hummers have weak feet and rarely walk.
6. They can fly up, down, backwards, forwards, upside down and hover effortlessly.
7. Life Span-10 yrs.
8. They do chirp-just too softly for humans to hear!

**Feeder Tips:**

- 1.Syrup-Combine 4 cups of water plus 1 cup of sugar-boil 5 minutes. Cool & refrigerate.
- 2.Don't hang feeder in full sun.
- 3.Change syrup every two days.
- 4.Don't add honey or red dye.
- 5.If ants are a problem, grease the pole hanger with Vaseline.
- 6.Wash thoroughly with hot water and vinegar. Be sure to rinse well. If you notice black spots, that is mold and must be washed out with a bottle brush or add a few grains of rice to rinse water and shake it up to remove. -From Texas A&M article-April '05 & Texas Wildlife website

**FOR SALE OR WILL BUY**

1. COLLECTOR BUYING VINYL RECORDS LP'S AND 45'S. CALL COACH AT 713-305-7798
2. LOOKING FOR PLAYERS FOR AN OAKWOOD GLEN CO-ED SOFT-BALL TEAM. CALL COACH AT 713-305-7798 OR EMAIL run-coach5k@aol.com
3. ETHAN ALLEN END TABLES—ONE 26 INCH SQUARE—MAPLE—

ALL WOOD—\$100.00; ONE SET OF NESTING TABLES—MAPLE—ALL WOOD—\$75.00 CALL BETTY KELLER 281-251-9922



Phone: 281-296-9775  
Fax: 281-296-9788  
E-mail: [anitaashmore@yahoo.com](mailto:anitaashmore@yahoo.com)

## THE FINAL INSPECTION

The soldier stood and faced his God, which must always come to pass.. He hoped his shoes were shining, just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, you soldier, how shall I deal with you ? Have you always turned the other cheek ? To My Church have you been true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders and said, "No, Lord, I guess I ain't. Because those of us who carry guns, can't always be a saint."

I've had to work most Sundays, and at times my talk was tough. And sometimes I've been violent, because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny, that wasn't mine to keep...  
Though I worked a lot of overtime, when the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fear.  
And sometimes, God, forgive me, I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place, among the people here.  
They never wanted me around, except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord, it needn't be so grand.  
I never expected or had too much, but if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne, where the saints had often trod. As the soldier waited quietly, for the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you soldier, you've borne your burdens well.  
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets, you've done your time in Hell."

~Author Unknown~

Thank You to all of the men and women serving this country.

In early August the world paused and prayed but did little to reflect on the significance of the duly reported story of 3 world powers scrambling to respond to a Russian SOS. A minisub with 7 sailors on board was trapped deep in the Bering Sea. Just the fact that Russia admitted they needed outside help was a dramatic departure from their historic “go it alone” attitude. The specter of the ill-fated submarine Kursk loomed heavily on their conscience. National pride previously took priority and 118 men died on board that ill-fated vessel.

There is a very real lesson for all of us in this event of uncommon world teamwork. Countries, oceans and continents apart, did not hesitate to heed the call to save lives. It didn’t take weeks over a bargaining table for proper wording or concessions. No neutral mediator or conciliatory gestures predicated mobilization of rescue teams. England, Japan and the U.S. readily dispatched their own minisubs and divers. This monumental effort paid off, and England on the scene first, disentangled the fishing nets holding the sub in the sea. All involved were heroes that day.

What can each of us learn from this example of global unity? If nations can work together for the common good - why can’t we? Scale it back, cut it down to the essential facts and apply the same spirit to our daily lives. Open doors, mend fences, cross streets and believe that cooperation and bonding with friends and neighbors can save the life of a community enmeshed in the tentacles of progress and depths of disinterest.

– M. Harris –