Peace at Last:
Stories of Hope and Healing for Veterans and Their Families

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We did this TOGETHER!
Dedication
Extrapolated to any traumatized population

Peace at Last

Bearing Witness:
A Personal Story

- No family in military war zones
- Vietnam: A story on the nightly news until...

- Nurse at the VA
Reflecting on a 35-year Career: Lessons Learned

VA Culture Different?
Why?

Veteran Distinctions: 10,000 Dying Veterans
• Stoicism
Stoicism

“Showing indifference to joy, grief, pleasure, pain”. (Webster’s Dictionary)

Think about implications!
Deny Self.

“Stoicism is not strength to overcome, but strength to hide. It is an attitude of unshakability to be attained by an effort of will and by a refusal to let one’s self be touched by the ordinary emotions of life. You should assert your mastery over outward events; if you cannot do that, at least you should be unaffected by them.” - Rollo May (Love and Will)

Disconnect

Grit
AND
Grace

Pride
Control
Independence

Pride
Control
Independence
Veteran Distinctions

- Stoicism
- Combat Veterans: Traumatic memories or paralyzing guilt
- “Meet their Maker”
- Suicide rate
- High incidence of alcohol usage or other "flighting"-type behaviors.
- (Sober)
- (War is REAL without alcohol)
- Warrior Wisdom
- A POW story

Disillusioned
Crusty on outside;
Tender on the inside.
Peace Seekers
Wisdom?

When the power of love
Overcomes the love of power
Then, and only then,
Shall we have peace.

-Anonymous
There have been 14,600 wars in the 5,000 years of written history.

Peace for Veterans

Suffering Redeemed with Wisdom!

Forgiveness at the Wall

If this vet had come to you? Platitudes?
Value of war memorials
Gaping wound in our society  Opus Peace
Maybe it is precisely the shocking confrontations with my hostile self that give me words to speak about hospitality as a real option.  

—Henri Nouwen (Wounded Healer)

How many in here are hostile? Cynical? If we can’t acknowledge and touch our own hostility, how can we be safe havens for a vet’s hostility? A personal story: page 84.

Chicago woman.

Never too Late to Say, “I’m Sorry.”

“Some Gave All; All Gave Some.”

Iowa woman

Shirl
“Thank you for your Service...”

• Invites stories (vs. data) (tip of the iceberg)
• Teach family how to listen to the ugly parts of the story
• We Honor Veterans program (NHPCO)
• Honoring Ceremonies
• Veterans History Project
• Honor Flight
Opus Peace: Healing Soul Injury via Opus Peace Ambassadors

Ohio State Veterans Home
Georgetown, Ohio

A Gaping Wound in our Society: Unmourned Grief & Unforgiven Guilt

Fallen Comrade Ceremony: Sponsor One!
A Civilian Responsibility

Go Ahead...Open It!!
May each of us have the Grit, the Grace, the Humility, the Love to heal our war-wracked soldiers and our broken nation. May we be the link that connects the circle so they feel connected to Humanity once again.

May we not miss the opportunity to help these veterans recover their souls from Iraq Desert Storm Vietnam Korea Nazi Germany and various other parts of the world where they served so they can have peace...at last.
May we help them know that the circle goes on, joining them to you and to me.
Our people, our nation, our God would be ever so grateful.

Deborah Grassman

Soul Injury Film

Event Format
• Locally-assembled panel to provide commentary and answer audience questions
• 2 CEUs for Nurses, Social Workers, Clergy, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, Addiction Professionals, Marriage & Family Therapy, Mental Health Counseling, Death Education and Counseling, Nursing Home Administrators, Psychologists

Materials include:
• Panel Discussion Manual
• Marketing & Strategizing Guidelines
• “Ask Me about Soul Injury” buttons
• Congressional “Soul Injury Awareness Month” National Proclamation
• Monthly Insight Activities
• Cost: $25 for the on-demand webcast and $50 (plus $9 for shipping and handling) for the DVD.

To register:
• Go to https://hospicefoundation.org/HFA-Products/Soul-Injury

Start a Book Circle! Start a Veteran Circle!

Stay in Touch!

Leave your business card with me (or write email address on paper)
www.OpusPeace.org or www.Soulinjury.org
(Tools, Blogs)