Reflections On Veterans Day

The following comments and photos circulated on the internet in 2010. They were forwarded to me by Robin George and originally related to Veteran’s Day. It is equally appropriate for remembering those who have served as well as paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

The following illustrates that America is not viewed as the Great Satan and Oppressor in all parts of the world. Some countries and cultures continue to remind us of the great sacrifices that the United States has made during its 235 year history to insure democracy and freedom throughout the world. The people of Pilsen and the Czech Republic remind us of who we are...

Have you ever wondered if anyone in Europe remembers America’s sacrifice in World War II? There is an answer in a small town in the Czech Republic. The town called Pilsen (Plzen).

Every five years Plzen conducts the Liberation Celebration of the City of Pilsen in the Czech Republic. The date was May 6th, 2010, and it marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Pilsen by General George Patton’s 3rd Army.

Pilsen is the town that every American should visit, because they love the American soldier. Even 65 years later, by the thousands the citizens of Pilsen came to say thank you, lining the streets of their city for miles.
Below, in a quiet, reflective moment, an American family has come to Pilsen to remember and honor their American hero. This is the crash site of Lt. Virgil P. Kirkham, the last American United States Army Air Corps (USAAC) pilot killed in Europe during World War II. It was Lt. Kirkham’s 82nd mission and one that he volunteered for.
There are more chapters in this important story. The Czech people are teaching their children about America's sacrifice for their freedom. And American soldiers, young and old, are the rock stars that these children and their parents want autographs from. Yes, Rock Stars! As they patiently waited for his autograph, the respect this little Czech boy and his father have for our troops serving today is heartwarming and inspirational.

The Brian LaViolette Foundation has established The Scholarship of Honor in tribute to General George S. Patton and the American Soldier, past and present. Each year, a different military hero will be honored in tribute to General Patton's memory and their mission to liberate Europe. This award will be presented to a graduating senior who will be entering the military or a form of community service such as fireman, policeman, teaching or nursing, a cause greater than self. The student will be from one of the five high schools in Pilsen, Czech Republic. The first award will be presented in May 2011 in honor of Lt. Virgil Kirkham, that young 20 year old P-47 pilot killed 65 years ago in the final days of WWII. Virgil's award will be presented to someone who knows the true meaning of service and sacrifice... someone who looks a lot like Virgil... Marion Kirkham, Virgil's brother, who himself served during WWII in the United States Army - Air Corps. !!!
In closing, here is what the city of Pilsen thinks of General Patton’s grandson. George Patton Waters (another Rock Star!) we’re proud to say, serves on Brian’s Foundation board. And it’s front page news, not buried in the middle of the social section.

So please join this amazing journey... Come visit Pilsen in the Czech Republic during the first part of May 2011, it may also be a life changing experience for you.