

I spoke with Jerry a week ago. Called to ask him about his upcoming “Flight of Honor,” to Washington, DC... He was excited about this chance to go, like so many vets, to see the World War II memorial. Though these flights, and this memorial, is about him, you would never have known it as we talked. He was just excited for this one more opportunity to live. It was as if this trip to be honored was just a continuing part of his life of service. And it was. I am sorry that Jerry will not make it to DC on September 17. But that memorial will stand in his stead, for time immemorial. It will stand for Jerry Gerald, for a life of service, and for dedication to those values that are cherished by free people everywhere. The next time you are on the mall in DC, know that Jerry is there with you.

After church today, a mother told me that during the service her young daughter was obviously listening to the sermon. I quoted Harold Kushner, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” and a child wrote on her bulletin... Yeah... why did Jerry have to die? What has he ever done to deserve that! How wonderful. And, yes, it would be wonderful if Jerry could have lived with us forever. But what Jerry deserves is the life that he did live... to the full. The life we believe he still lives... with God. The life that he will always give to those of us who were touched by him.

Jerry Gerald didn't live forever, but while he was with us, there was a lot of forever in his living.

So let us worship God together, as we give thanks for Jerry's forever kind of living... as long as it lasted. Thanks be to God.