

## Opinion

# STOLEN VALOR... THE NO-NO'S!

by Dan Gatlyn, USN Retired – Minister/Journalist

**L**ife, standing alone, is a perilous affair! It gets very "tejus" in the outer lane! Most everyone has either had the mumps, stubbed their toe on a protruding root... been sentenced to extra chores... even been caught with a "hand in the cookie jar:" What I am saying is that "the average span of years afford more than a clown's share of dazzle and fright!" So much so, until you don't dare invent more danger or misery! There are some things that any normal person avoids like the plague, in fear of a crippling blow! I mean, you are not privileged to fall in late years, to follow too closely behind a stubborn mule; or, to consume the wrong mushrooms. A lethal list could be formed; but, allow me to mention **JUST ONE MORE NO-NO... YOU DON'T FEIGN YOUR JOURNEY WITH REGIMENTED CIRCLES!**

All the world will cheer the Hero, applaud the sacrifice, or empathize with those who have paid their dues! Throngs of dedicated men and women have dispatched themselves to dangerous fields of defense! Untold numbers of white crosses depict the atmosphere of those thousands who **ARE NO MORE**... overwhelmed by armed renegades in efforts to subdue a force who would deny commended morals and Freedom! They are to be honored, far above the everyday pursuits! War (or Armed conflict) is literally Hell on Earth! Next to the enemy in abhorrence, is that paltry hypocrite that will lay claims to "have gone, when they were never really there!"

Such claims to a heroic stance when false aspirations have been invented, is highest on the list of **NO-NO's** in the minds of legitimate Warriors; and, have been labelled **STOLEN VALOR**. The extent to which some will go, in an effort to feign celebrity status, is beyond the pale; and, is a detestable profile.

It is especially nauseating when the role has been initiated for personal gain. Everyone who has served honorably is to be commended for time and presence, but to dampen the records of reality with hypothetical, or wishful thinking, is vanity of the highest order.

Be thankful that you never had to dodge bombs, bullets, and peripheral dangers... giving credence to those that did! That is the plateau where you will shine.

## Vintage Gardens At Sweetwater



Senior Living at its best! Enjoy the quiet gazebo with flowers, individual gardening areas, and a community center with planned activities for everyone.

Independent living for residents 55 years of age and older.

### *Apartment Features*

- Washer/Dryer Connections
- Spacious Sunrooms
- Fully Equipped Kitchens
- Oversized Bathrooms
- Large Walk-in Closets
- Water and Sanitation Included
- Garbage Disposal
- Mini Blinds
- Single Story, No Stairs
- Handicap Accessible

### *Community Features*

- Community Center w/Planned Activities
- Individual Gardening Areas
- Gazebo with Flower Gardens

**COME ON HOME!**

Section 8 vouchers accepted and transferable from Georgia to South Carolina!

Equal Housing Opportunity

*Vintage Gardens*  
At Sweetwater

3 Murrah Road Extension  
N. Augusta, SC 29860  
**(803) 819-3139**

Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday by appointment