

FUNERAL SERVICE BY  
Chaplain (CPT) Chester C. Egert  
Battalion Chaplain, 3/34 Field Artillery  
Given at the Funeral of LTC Clinton Winfield Kuhn<sup>5</sup>, USA, Retired  
on 17 August 1986  
at Mountain View Funeral Home, Tacoma, Washington

Clinton Winfield Kuhn was born 23 July 1906, Montpelier, Indiana. Died Tuesday 12 August 1986, in Tacoma after a long illness.

Clinton was married to and is survived by his wife of 58 years, Francis; 3 daughters: Jean Faught of Santa Paula, California; Jeannette Rivas, Ojai, California; and Janice Wells of Puyallup. Sister: Giva Dean and Brother John Kuhn of Florida. He had 10 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Clinton served in the military for 33 years, with the National Guard and Reserves. In 1929 he entered the Guard from the East Coast. When WW II broke out he was already in the Philippines having gone there in 1940. He was to fight under the command of General Douglas MacArthur and General Jonathan Wainwright in the battle for Corregidor. He was taken by the Japanese and remained a Prisoner of War for the remaining 3½ years of the war. During that time there was a period of 18 months when the family had no word from him, and didn't know if he was dead or alive. For his outstanding bravery, courage, and valor he earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. Clinton came home following the end of the war on 6 Sept. '45. He was also to serve in the Korean Conflict, once again earning the Purple Heart. When the United States did not require his service in conflict he enjoyed assignments in Izmir, Turkey, the Pentagon, Governor's Island, NY and here at Fort Lewis.

Clinton distinguished himself time and again during his military career. He retired as a LTC in 1962, and his rank speaks for itself. He possessed the strength and constitution to endure immeasurable hardships, and at the same time extend support, friendship, and leadership to all those around him. I think, though, the greatest testimony that can be made concerning Clinton's military experience was his ability to forgive his captors. In spite of the unbearable, excruciating sufferings forced upon himself and his fellow Americans he emerged from this period of his life able to hold out the hand of forgiveness and good will. Without a doubt his tolerance for human error and injustice, and his deep sense of kindness gave him the ability to meet the challenges of life head on and conquer them. How we need more men of this caliber today.

Clinton was a real family man. He enjoyed doing the simple things in life, taking his family on a camping or hunting trip, working on the house--adding on a garage and just doing fun things like picken' apples. He never complained or gripped about his situation. He was a friend's friend to all who knew him, and he sure is going to be missed by a lot of people.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a time for everything.  
A time to be born, a time to die.  
A time to plant, a time to harvest.  
A time to kill, a time to heal.  
A time to destroy, a time to rebuild.  
A time to cry, a time to laugh.

A time to grieve, a time to dance.  
A time for scattering stones, a time for gathering stones.  
A time to hug, a time not to hug.  
A time to find, a time to lose.  
A time for keeping, a time to throw away.  
A time to tear, a time to repair.  
A time to be quiet, a time to speak.  
A time to be loving, a time to be hating.  
A time to for war, a time for peace.

Hebrews 9:27: "There is an appointed time once to die, and after that the judgement."

Clinton didn't fear life, and in spite of declining health he went on living up to the last minute. The late Peter Marshall said something which I think applies to Clinton:

"When the clock strikes for me, I shall go, not one minute early, and not one minute late. Untill then, there is nothing to fear. . . .The measure of life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation."

Our task today is to go on from here.

We can never go back. Life is like a long corridor, as we pass down this hallway we go through doors which have a handle only on the front side. Once we have passed through, it is impossible to reopen that door, and go back. We have only one option, and that is to keep going.

It's not good to continue in one circumstance very long. Clint will not soon fade from our memory, and that's all right. The Jews had a custom, as part of their mourning ritual they would tear a garment; that tear would represent the death of their loved one, being torn from their lives. After a time, however, the Jew would ask the Rabbi if the garment could be mended. "Yes, it could be mended," he would reply. "Can it be disgarded?" they would ask. "No, it must never be disgarded. For though the hurt and pain of your loved ones loss will eventually lessen, you can never forget them." And so it is, the valley of sorrow will be left behind, and times of peace and rejoicing will return. (Must be allowed to return.)

The last thing I want you to remember is that the Scripture says "We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weakness." (Heb. 4:15) That Christ partook of flesh and blood "that through death he might render powerless him who had the power of death." God did not shelter himself, but gave his Son, for the sins of the world, that we might live.

God understands your pain today. And he invites all who are weary and heavy burdened to come to Him. Peter said, "cast all your cares and worries on Him, . . . (I Pet 5:7) God's will is for you to go on from here. Not to live in a make believe world, but a real one. God has promised sufficient strength and grace for today. If we will but take one day at a time. (II Cor. 12:8; Matt 6:34) Don't worry about tomorrow. Instead live today.