

WOW
April showers, bring May flowers

WOW is the new name of the chaplain's corner for Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) – it means words of wisdom. May's WOW are: April showers, bring May flowers

Perhaps everybody heard this rhyme at some point, generally having been taught it at an early age by parents or teachers; it reaches back to the mid 1500s, although earlier use of “April showers bring May flowers” probably existed.

Legend has it that in 1557 a man by the name of Thomas Tusser compiled a collection of writings he called A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry. In the April Husbandry section, he wrote:

Sweet April showers - do spring May flowers.

As you can see, this rhyme was originally a short poem. But, there is meaning behind the words, as well. “April showers bring May flowers” is a reminder - that even the most unpleasant of circumstances, can bring about very enjoyable results indeed – even an abundance of flowers in May. “April showers bring May flowers” is also a lesson in patience and perseverance, and one that remains valid to this day.

The truth is - many of life's greatest blessings come after severe loss and unimaginable pain and suffering. However, it seems that the key to recovery and healing after a season of brokenness and disappointment, is in patiently weaving yesterday's tragedy into tomorrow's triumphs and prayerfully searching for the silver lining in every dark cloud.

Memorial Day is right around the corner when countless Families will recall that season like “April showers” when they received the worst report anyone can get in this life – the news of their fallen hero. Also this coming Monday many will display the American flag, revisit old letters, pictures and awards, or drive to a cemetery to lay fresh flowers at the resting site of their champion. Although I deployed and thought many times about the possibility of my relatives getting the same information - I will never be able to fully imagine the heartbreak and agony of having to endure such an unfortunate experience.

To all who read this article that lost a loved one in defense of this nation please know that you and your loved ones are never forgotten – especially in times of National commemoration of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Memorial and Veterans Days will never be the same for you again, and life will always fall short of delivering enough good news to compensate for the price you paid - I pray that the presence of God will be a source of comfort during these times and that your future will be bright – bright as May Flowers after April Showers.