

Retuning Soldiers

By Pam Jundt

Recently a NFL quarterback, Drew Brees, said he didn't agree with the Black Lives Matter protesters in the league kneeling during the national anthem. He said it disrespected the flag and the flag meant so much to him since both of his grandfathers fought in WWII. How can someone so young be so out of touch with his teammates? He later apologized, but sadly his this sentiment is shared by many. It's confusing. For one, since when is kneeling a show of disrespect? And if it is, then someone should have told the apostle Paul because in Eph. 3 he kneels before God.

Also, didn't he think that his black teammates had grandfathers that fought as well? The big difference is that when his white grandfathers returned from the war they were greeted with a hero's welcome. The returning black soldiers were often lynched by white supremacist that couldn't stand to see a black man in uniform. They survived everything Nazi Germany threw at them, but couldn't survive the hate in their own country. In addition, Drew's grandfathers could go to college and improve their job prospects using the GI bill. They could accumulate wealth by buying homes with a VA loan. The black veterans didn't have those advantages. That was the deal with the devil FDR made with the southern states. They would vote for the GI bill as long as blacks were denied access to its benefits. Dear Drew, you can't invoke the service of your ancestors without also acknowledging their privilege.

During an interview a week or so ago, a recent recipient of the Medal of Freedom (who says irony is dead?) claimed that there was no such thing as white privilege. That is like a fish swimming in a huge lake saying there is no such thing as water. (There needs to be changing of the guard in front of that radio mike). How many of us, though are that blind? Are we so comfortable with our advantages we don't see them? Like when you're searching all over for your glasses only to realize you're wearing them. I admit I have to do as much soul searching as anyone.