

VICTORY

Though rather faint or blurred, the old victory posture to the right is one of many that promoted the war effort during World War II. For the Coast Guard in this case, victory meant protection of coastal waters against spy missions, enemy submarines, and other tactics launched by Germany and Japan. As you may know, a German landing did occur at Ponte Vedra Beach whereby several plain-clothed soldiers made their way north with plans to commit acts of terrorism in the Northeast against civilians. Though the landing was successful, the terrorists were intercepted and the mission was thwarted.



Victory meant not only fighting and defeating the enemy abroad but also protecting our national interests and security at home. As with our circumstances today involving militant Islamic forces, Nazi Germany and their allies represented a threat to civilians in the states; hence Homeland Security is not a recent development but has been in place for many years for similar reasons of international terrorism lodged at the innocent, civilian population.

In a raw definition, victory means to win; but in order to win against radical and vigilant forces, victory may require a long-term, wide-scale and very costly campaign. In one of my favorite movies, "The Patriot", the main character stands before the South Carolina congress to denounce the voting of levy that would commit the state to a revolt against Great Britain. Himself a legislator, Benjamin Martin is certain that a revolt would be very costly where battles would *take place among us, our children would see it with their own eyes, and the innocent would die along with the guilty.* He recognized that the cost of victory would be enormous and that all citizens would bear the price with or without final victory.

Victory, in its ebb and flow, does always go to those who are right or those who have righteousness on their side. Thank God that the greatest victory has been won on the cross and that death, the penalty of sin, has been defeated; and that on Christ's final return, evil will be finally brought to an end. Yet, in the mean time, evil and wickedness continue to thrive on earth and to exist in every corner of our world. Such forces are strong and will attempt to take down and destroy everything that is righteous, good and pure in God's sight; yet, God remains in control and is able to keep that which he has committed. Amen

In a

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