

May 30, 2021

Scott's Thoughts



“until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,”
(Ephesians 4:13,

ESV)

Monday is Memorial Day and I know most will not read this until after that date, but I want to write this anyway. I have lived in eight different states and have always tried to learn some of the history about the different states where we have lived.

Illinois was easy. I lived there for a total of 23 years and went from kindergarten through high school there. In New York, I only learned about New York City and the shrouding area. Ava and I eventually spent fifteen years in Louisiana where we learned much, especially about South Louisiana. It was like a whole other country. We also had a short stint in Mississippi where we learned about boiled peanuts. Fifteen years were spent in Texas where we learned about “Texas Pride”. We have now spent eleven years in Oklahoma, and I recently learned something different about Oklahoma.

I know that is a long introduction, but I want to talk about something in Oklahoma’s history that goes back to WWII. The 45th division of the army was a national guard unit from Oklahoma known as The Thunderbirds. This division saw more combat than almost any other division during the war and their record

of accomplishment is most impressive. During WWII, the 45 Division fought 511 days in combat. 9 Soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor, 62 received The Distinguished Service Cross, and 3 received Distinguished Service Medals. There were 1,848 Silver Star Medals, 38 Legion of Merit Medals, 59 Soldier Medals, 5,744 Bronze Metals and 52 Air Medals. The 45th Division was composed of Apache, Seminole, Cherokee, Sioux, Choctaw, Mexican Americans, and Dust Bowl Cowboys.

Despite the racial tension back home, these men came forward to fight their common foe as a cohesive unit. They were the most integrated unit during WWII, a time when there was still a great deal of racial bigotry in our country. Their greatest accomplishment was their willingness to put their birth hertiages aside and learn to appreciate each other for who they were. They ate together, slept together, fought together, and trusted each other with their lives without question. Oklahoma had a real part in shaping the future of race relations in our country.

The truth of the matter is God is the God of all. His son Jesus died so everyone from every ethnic background can have hope of eternity in Heaven! God not only wants to save everyone He also wants us to work together to make this place a better place for each of us to live. Reach out to someone near you and welcome them into your sphere while you share with them the good news of Jesus.

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” (1 Peter 3:8, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott