

Janice Brown Bradley Gallup Wreaths Across America

Written by Gallupsun Staff

Friday, 03 December 2021 05:09



I am grateful for our veterans.

KEEPER

Their Marriage was good, their dreams focused.

Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in his hand, and dish-towel in hers. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away ... never to return. So ... While we have it ...

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It's best we love it ... and care for it ... And fix it when it's broken ... And heal it when it's sick.

This is true ... For marriage ... And old cars ... And children with bad report cards ... Dogs and cats with bad hips ... And aging parents ... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it,

-by Donna Calvin

submitted by Janice Brown Bradley

To read the entire poem, visit beliefnet.com/columnists/watchwomanonthewall/2011/08/inspirational-keeper.html