

A Veteran's Prayer in Time of War

by the Rev. Marie E. deYoung

On this somber day, Spirit of Life,
Teach us how to honor our veterans of war.
Teach us how to care for those who bear arms to protect our lives.

Teach us how to reverence those who sacrifice their dreams to secure freedom for
unknown peoples.
Teach us how to comfort those who lost spouses, children, lovers, friends – when their
sense of duty wrought eternal grief.
Teach us to understand when peace-loving people take up arms –
Hoping beyond hope to end violent strife.

War is never holy, yet the holy are called to do war's bidding.

On this holy day, Spirit of Life,
Teach us how to stop war even after it takes on a life of its own.
Teach us how to live the purpose of Armistice Day, Veteran's Day:
Teach us how to make this war the last, the war to end all wars.

Rev. Marie deYoung is a UU Community Minister based in Lansdowne, PA. She served as the first woman UU chaplain in the U.S. Army in the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment; 19th TAACOM; and 44th Engineer, 2nd Infantry Division. DeYoung is the author of two books, Women in Combat (with Lorry Fenner), and This Woman's Army: The Dynamics of Sex and Violence in the Military. She chairs the UU Church of Delaware County Social Justice Committee and on Veteran's Day, will lead a UUCDC volunteer delegation in rebuilding two homes—one belonging to a veteran—in New Orleans.