

*Veteran's Day  
Moraga, California  
November 11, 2016*

*Remarks by Mayor Michael Metcalf*

*Inspired by Theodore Klein's "The Power of Service"  
from the theology of Emanuel Swedenborg*

Uses are the activities we perform through our work and contributions of both time and treasure. In our uses there resides a genuine motivation to serve. The general good is sustained by our uses. Our love and wisdom are expressed in our uses, which are a deeply spiritual expression of our desire to serve.

Uses are linked with a life of charity. Charity is doing what is good and right in every work, office, employment, and activity in our lives. A truly charitable life involves acting honestly and fairly, out of an inward spiritual motivation. In this there is a joining together of genuine love, spiritual insights, and actions with good consequences.

Power is capacity to do, or to make a difference. Power of Service arises from loving one's neighbor and community, having concern for one another's welfare, delighting in uses, and experiencing pleasure in being of use and service.

Neighbor means something more than the individual man. It means also the collective man, the community itself. One's country is more a neighbor than a single community, because one's country consists of many communities. Consequently, love toward one's country is a broader and higher love. That one's country should be loved is a law inscribed in the heart, from which comes the principle that if the country is threatened with ruin from an enemy, it is noble to die for it, and glorious for a soldier to shed blood for it.

The men and women of our armed forces sustain our communities through their uses. Their service contributes to the common good—the security of our communities at home and far away. Their service is their charity, performing uses which are hardly for personal gain, but for the benefit of neighbors and communities. For this they are willing to shed blood, even to die for. Their Power of Service is possible because of their unselfish willingness to serve.

On this Veteran's Day, let us openly honor the men and women of our armed forces: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Seabees. Let us, on every possible occasion, express to them our thanks for their continued service. Let us pray for their safety in whatever they do. And let us be inspired by their example, to always be useful, to live charitable lives for the benefit and delight of others ... and thus, to enjoy the power of our service.