



November 11, 2009

Watco Team,

On this Veterans Day it is appropriate for all of us to meditate for a moment about the real sacrifice our Veterans, both living and deceased endured for our freedom. There is no better way to gain some small measure of understanding about this sacrifice than the beautiful and tender words of comfort offered by President Abraham Lincoln in a letter to Mrs. Bixby of Boston, who had given five sons to her country. President Lincoln wrote this letter in November, 1864 at a time when the angel of death had visited almost every household in a stricken land, and it was even then hovering over the President himself. It reads as follows:

My Dear Mrs. Bixby:

I have been shown in the files of the War Department that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from your grief for a loss so overwhelming. And yet I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic which they died to save.

I earnestly pray that our Heavenly Father may soothe the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and the lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours in having laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Abraham Lincoln

*LINCOLN'S TENDERNESS;*

*The Letter He Wrote for a Dying Soldier Boy to the Mother Bereaved of Five Sons.*

*From The Indianapolis Journal.*

*June 1, 1902, Sunday*

Thank you to all our Veterans who serve and have served our great country and to their families whose immeasurable sacrifice we can never repay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. D. [unclear]", is written in a cursive style.