



John Glennon Remarks to Open Veterans Day Assembly November 10, 2023

Good morning gentlemen.

This is no ordinary assembly. Although, today we celebrate and tell the story of someone who was once an ordinary man -- a Georgetown Prep graduate from the class of 1941 in fact. As we begin, I'd caution you not to be so distracted by his extra-ordinary story that you forget this simple fact: he was once in your seat.

We tell his story today because, among other things, he had an exceptional response to an extraordinarily challenging circumstance. And for that he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor (MOH) that Mr. Daly received was first awarded in 1862, in the midst of the Civil War. The official name of the nation's highest military decoration is the Medal of Honor, though many refer to it as the Congressional Medal of Honor because Congress originally authorized it and designated the President or his chosen representative to present the Medal in the name of Congress.

The Medal may be awarded to any member of the armed forces -- enlisted or officer -- who distinguishes himself or herself in battle by conspicuous "gallantry and intrepidity" at the risk of life and "above and beyond the call of duty." Indeed, a member of the armed forces cannot receive the Medal of Honor for simply acting under orders, no matter how bravely he or she executes them. His/her actions must be "above and beyond carrying out orders.

An exceptional response to an extraordinarily challenging circumstance.

We come together today to do two main things:

- Tell his story.
- Honor his memory as we bless and dedicate a picture that will hang in the Saul library as a permanent remembrance.

Before we start our program, I'd like to take a moment and ask you to help me offer a big prep welcome to a few special guests:

Mr. Daly's daughter, Deidre and her husband Alfred

Mr. Daly's stepson, Sanford Miller, and his wife, Melanie.

Mr. Miller, an infantry officer like his stepfather and step-grandfather before him, served in the United States Army in Vietnam. He was a Special Forces lieutenant advising a South Vietnamese Army infantry battalion in South Vietnam and Cambodia.

On this Veterans Day I would also like to recognize the veterans among faculty and staff and thank them for their service: Mr. Fegan, Mr. Wisecarver and Mr. Trieu Huang as well as any other veterans in the audience that we didn't name.

In just a minute, I'm going to ask Dr. Och's, who has written a book about Mr. Daly, to come up and tell you his story and as he does I'd ask each of you to step back for a moment. Step back from your ordinary concerns, your ordinary thoughts. I'd ask you to step back in order to dial-in. To step back from yourself, from your own world and turn your own thoughts to Mr. Daly's story. A story that speaks of something bigger than you, bigger than me, bigger than any of us. A story that I would argue is connected to, but bigger than even our daily mission, our sacred cause at Prep. Dr. Och's book on Mr. Daly is entitled "*A Cause Greater than Self.*" This morning we ask you to step back from yourself to learn an important lesson about a man who took part in a collective effort to save the world from Nazi terror, which is commendable on its own but who, while serving in WWII went above and beyond the call of duty.

Because of brave men like Mr. Daly, most of us in this room have never known war and we hope that we never do but let us not be so ignorant as to believe that the threat of war has been wiped away. Once Mr. Daly sat where you now sit as a boarding student from Fairfield Connecticut. On that day too he did not know war. He did not know what the future held. But the challenge of war did come to him as it might to you.

We tell you his story today so that if one day you too are challenged, because of his example – you'll know --- what to do.