

Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome  
Pastor John Hicks  
First United Methodist Church

The drive by marines to accomplish the mission has given birth to the phrase “improvise, adapt, and overcome.” Made famous by Clint Eastwood in “Heartbreak Ridge”, it’s a saying that was around since well before the movie, and is now a phrase used by the corps to describe their actions when they surmount an unexpected obstacle.

Last Veteran’s Day, I saw this phrase put into use by the Clewiston High School Criminal Justice Classes as they put on a program to honor our area veterans.

The day started with a much needed rain for us, but not the best weather conditions for an outdoor ceremony with an electronic sound system. Like troopers they went ahead with the program. The comment I heard was “The veterans didn’t let the rain stop them from doing for us, and it won’t stop us from doing for them.” The honor ceremony went on, even when they lost power to several of the microphones, and heavy truck traffic provided a lot of loud background interference noise. Kudos to them!

Thank you Captain Petersen and the whole Criminal Justice Class for providing for and leading us in a tribute to honor those who gave of themselves so that we can have what we have today. Thank you Gabriella Martin for sharing with us a very special tribute to your veteran father. You all did us honor by providing a special program on our behalf. We owe you for that.

Most of all, thanks to all who have served and are serving in the armed forces. We not only owe you for that, we owe you big time. As someone once said, “This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.” We owe your families as well. When someone goes to war, the whole family serves. Again, thank you!

On Veterans Day, we honor the sacrifices made by soldiers who’ve served and those who continue to do so. However, celebrating Veterans Day should not only occur on November 11. We should constantly honor those courageous men and women who helped bring the freedom and unity that we enjoy today. May God bless you all as you improvise, adapt, and overcome whatever comes your way.

“Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem.” - Ronald Reagan