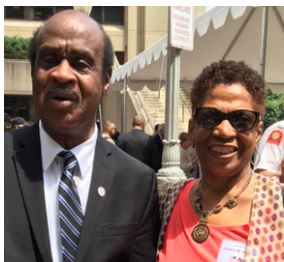




“Remember”

By Min. Sharon M. Prather

...Cross over again to the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Israel, so that this may be a sign among you; when your children ask later, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ then you shall say to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall become a memorial for Israel forever. Joshua 4:4-7 (AMP)



County Executive Ike Leggett
and Min. Sharon Prather



Do you know that there were 130 service members from Montgomery County, Maryland, who were killed or reported missing in action during the Vietnam War? My only brother, Pfc. James W. Prather, was among this distinguished group who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. My sisters and I still remember when the circle of our family was broken upon his passing. But we are not alone. The Montgomery County Government has taken steps to ensure that many others will remember.

On May 21, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., a hot and humid afternoon on Memorial Plaza in Rockville, Maryland, my three sisters and my oldest nephew sat among hundreds of people under a huge white tent to witness the official unveiling and dedication of the “Montgomery County Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Vietnam Era Honor and Gratitude Plaque.” The Honorable County Executive Isiah Leggett, himself, CAPT, USA, Vietnam Veteran, January-December 1969, acknowledged that, “the event was powerful and emotional.” Indeed, it seemed to me that the trembling voices of each speaker on the program echoed the County Executive’s sentiments. It was a solemn ceremony made even more so by the bugler’s playing of “Taps.”

Day is done, Gone the sun
From the lake, from the hill
From the sky. All is well,
Safely rest, God is nigh.

Tears welled in my eyes. I glanced at my sisters. I could tell they were emotionally affected as well. But eventually we got ourselves together and tried to put on a “good face.” As for me, I realized that even though the day was done, we still have the SON, who promises to never leave us nor forsake us

(Heb. 13:5). Scripture also says, “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Ps. 34:18). Therefore, all *is* well and we *can* safely rest, because God is nigh.

We never know how, what, or whom God will use to bring us to remembrance of Himself. Thus, thank you, Montgomery County Government, Office of Veterans Affairs, and Commission on Disabilities for using a stone inscribed with the names of 130 service persons who made the ultimate sacrifice to remind me of the Rock that is higher than I. Remember....

A very touching video of the ceremony was created by Susan Kennedy, Anchor/Producer County Cable Montgomery. Click [here](#) to view.