



Reflections During Wartime

By May—for most—the golfing season is in full swing (no pun intended). Given the world's events over this past month, the opening of our respective golf courses seemingly takes on a dimension of little importance. Not to say that what we do is not important, but in the grand scheme of things, keeping things in perspective, golf is still just a game. After all, right now halfway around the globe the men and women of the Armed Services are putting their lives on the line in the Middle East. They are fighting for freedoms we almost always take for granted, and certainly overlook on a daily basis. On our behalf, on behalf of our children and our children's children, I would like to thank them all for doing their jobs to the best of their abilities, and for fighting for all those who cannot fight for themselves.

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Being a simple citizen, I have only these few observations. War is always an ugly occurrence. War is proof positive that policies only work when obeyed. Diplomatic reasoning usually fails when compromise is thrown out of the equation. The next war is always unlike any other war that preceded it. War arises out of a twisted menagerie of cultural, political, religious and economic differences, the likes of which I could not begin to explain or comprehend, even with 24 hours of daily network coverage.

Without getting too political here, as that same simple citizen home here in America, I see my duty as one of support. I do not have to particularly agree with everything our government is doing all the time, but I do put my faith in their judgment and analysis of all the facts. I believe our biggest responsibility here at home is simple: show support in any way we can for all those who fight for the freedoms we enjoy. I find it quite ironic that war protestors are given the freedom to protest against a conflict that, in essence, is a fight for one of the very freedoms that gives them the right to protest.

This war, like most wars before it, will undoubtedly come to an eventual end. To that prospect, we pray that it happens soon, and that it happens with a clear and precise outcome. It has most assuredly already affected us all in one way or another. For all those with loved ones in the military services stationed in the Middle East, we hope and pray for your family members' quick and safe return. For the rest of us back home, we do not need to be economists to know our economy has not bounced back as swiftly as we all would have hoped. To some degree, most of us have already felt and seen projected revenue shortfalls, tightened budgets and labor cutbacks. In times such as these, we will be expected to do more with less. Some things about war never change.

