

MM Moment Ministries Mailing
Memorial Weekend 2015
Veterans And Champions Indeed!

Scrolling through Facebook entries I stopped when "All People's" appeared. And my heart sort of stopped when I read these words:

"It is with great sadness that I must share that we lost three of our Champions over the weekend. Unfortunately Ira Smith, Edith Enouye and Larry Hixon. They are the ones who helped build the legacy of All People's"

I am sure this was written by Saundra Bryant, longtime respected Director of All People's.

My brief 6 and a half years in Los Angeles during the '60's overlapped all these people and many others.

As Memorial Day approaches when we celebrate the memory of those who fought in our nation's wars, and sacrificed, I thought *"These three 'Champions' were also true veterans."*

Fewer and fewer live today who remember the history of those years and the "war-zone" reality. People struggled, fought, suffered, sacrificed and died. All of us experienced what came to be known as the Civil Rights struggle. In LA we had the "Watt's Riots." All People's was one of the inner city programs in place at that time. It was called All Peoples Christian Center in those days, but expanded into All People's Community Center.

Tom Norwood was Director when I was there. Ira and Edith were in the center of things. Larry Hixson was Director of Eastmont Christian Center, later coming to serve on the Board of All People's.

There were lots of problems and issues and not enough resources. Some of the ongoing issues centered around schools and housing and jobs, especially for minorities. Segregation was an active reality. Some of the rest of us needed a lot of education.

I was presiding at the All People's board meeting the night Martin Luther King was assassinated. People died in that war.

My sense was that the people who chipped away at the problems, doing anything they could, were engaged in a war. It was not clear that anyone would win. Those who fought in that battle, and who kept fighting until their last days, are worthy of Saundra's designation as "Champions."

My comment on Facebook was "Champions indeed!"

A personal post-script. I have a lot of people on my mailing list. I don't know how many actually read what I write. Only a few days ago I received an email note from Larry Hixon. It was actually a copy of a note he had sent to some of his friends with my recent Blue Sheet mailing attached:

Hi all,

Thought you might find this meaningful. Feel free to pass it around. Art is a Disciple Minister of special insight and writing ability. — Best always, Larry

I responded

Thanks, Larry...

Glad to hear from you. It's always good to know old friends are alive and reading. It's also a compliment that you would wish to share my words with those on your list... I suspect you are still active in being and doing life that is meaningful and rewarding... Thanks again for your note. — For the Moment...

The next time I saw his name it was on the All People's Facebook report. News of his death hit heavy as it brought to mind days we all shared in battles that still need Champions.

So, on my annual Memorial Day walk on our Puget Sound beach I will be thinking of these veterans newly added to my list. I scatter *Forget-me-nots* as I go...and remember.

— Art Morgan May 22, 2015

