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A NEWSPAPER COLUMN DESIGNED TO BUILD READERSHIP...

Mettle Moment is a newspaper column written and illustrated by historian and artist, John Mollison.

Each column contains a brief, personal story taken from the countless moments of Americans and their military history. The writing is thought-provoking, fresh and original - designed to be read quickly but inspire positive action in the reader.

A representative artifact - a jet fighter, a tank...even a lowly piece of kitchen equipment - is lifted from the story and illustrated in color or black and white.

The result is a column that people will know, learn and look for *again*.

★
INSPIRE.
#1



F6F-5 HELLCAT OF HAROLD THUNE, VF-11

Count off one second. "One-one thousand." In that time, 80 hornet-sized slugs of supersonic metal could have shredded the Japanese pilot.

But they didn't. Harold held his fire and the pilot clambered out onto the wing of his burning fighter and lept away to an open parachute and longer life.

Warfare is in its essence, legally sanctioned killing. Indeed, the practice of combat is based around the old adage, "Kill or be killed."



by John Mollison

But for that moment in 1944, Lt. Harold Thune, fighter pilot of VF-11, war was not so much about killing as it was Victory. Even if that victory might have meant a loss later on.

Yet, this much is known. Sixty years later, Harold still recalled that moment with crystal clarity, assured of his choice to spare the life of someone who was no longer a threat to the job at hand.

What would you have done?

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Art: Harold Thune's F6F-5



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