

Lace Umbrellas

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Recently, I saw something that disturbed me. My wife and I had gone to our house in Graceville, Florida to do some work. In our house, I have one room upstairs that my wife has allowed me to decorate according to my own desires and taste. We affectionately refer to it as “the War Room.” It is decorated with things I have accumulated over the past two decades in the military, as well as things from my father and grandfather, both of whom served in the Navy.

The room is decorated in a somewhat red, white and blue color scheme. The wallpaper is a beige background with blue stars arranged in a regular pattern. The border around the top has pictures of sailing ships flying red, white and blue streamers. The area rugs placed in there, as well as the covering on the day bed accent the colors.

However, when I went in there recently, I noticed something on the day bed that I didn't place there and it just didn't look right to me. I thought that my mother had been upstairs and added the item to the room. After all, she had made some throw pillows that matched the room and they were on the day bed. The object that didn't seem to fit was a lace umbrella.

To be more accurate, it was a lace parasol. By definition, an umbrella is a device for keeping rain or snow off of a person. A parasol is a lighter form of the object that is not designed to protect you from rain or snow, but simply to provide a measure of shade for a lady. My wife has a lace parasol that she purchased when we were in Okinawa.

When I came downstairs, I was complaining to her that my mother had apparently been up there and placed that thing in my War Room where it OBVIOUSLY didn't belong. She told me that she had put it in there because the white lace on it matched nicely with the red, white and blue color scheme in there.

My wife has a wonderful eye for decorating. She simply has the knack for being able to blend just the right colors and has a wonderful sense of balance for arranging objects for just the right appeal. However, in this case, I had to tell her that I just didn't think a lace umbrella fit in with the theme of a War Room. I like the manly atmosphere and the warrior theme that is portrayed in the room. However, the longer I thought about it, the more I decided that I was wrong.

You see, the reason I have served in the military is because I wanted to do my part to provide for the common defense of our nation and to ensure that my children and my grandchildren have a safe place to live. And my term of service has not been alone. My wife has served and sacrificed, just as I have. She has supported my decision to serve in the military and has kept everything at home functioning smoothly, even during my years of absence. And in reality, I could not have done it without her. Further more, I have done it for her.

So, I have decided that it is the proper thing to have a lace umbrella in the War Room. It reminds me why I do what I do and who I do it for. I suppose when it comes down to it, the lace parasol looks rather nice in there.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.