

MONDAY MESSAGE

Invest Influence Impact



Why Do We Get These Results - Prelude to **Respond to the Problem**

You may remember a couple of weeks ago I presented readers with a five step process for problem solving. The steps are listed below:

1. Recognize the problem.
2. Respond to the problem.
3. Identify the root cause with those closest to the problem.
4. Develop solutions with those closest to the problem.
5. Test solutions

Last week, I highlighted step one and discussed the reasons why people sometimes fail to recognize a problem exists. I had originally planned to write this week about step two and dive into the response mindset of those who can see the problem and have a legitimate desire to bring about change/improvement. However, I have decided to make a mid-course

correction and use this week as a way to recognize and celebrate the 1.2 million men and women who have given their lives to secure and sustain our country's independence and freedoms.

Today is Memorial Day and I would love for you to consider watching this nineteen minute video of the [2014 University of Texas commencement](#) address by retired Admiral William H. McRaven. Currently, I am reading his book, *The Wisdom of the Bullfrog: Leadership Made Simple (But Not Easy)*, and was reminded of the video linked above. The book is a great addition to the speech containing additional lessons to be learned so I highly recommend it. I see a connection to the lessons he shares and the idea of educators responding to problems. You see, it is our response that dictates everything. Problem-solving and being an educational leader is not easy and there are times we all need to be reminded of what might be required of us if we are really serious about change. In the words of Admiral McRaven, "It matters not if you have served a day in uniform... our struggles in this world are similar and the lessons of these struggles, changing ourselves and changing the world around us, apply equally to all." I am thankful for all who have given their life, served, and are serving in order for us to be safe and be free. May we all be willing to respond when needed because we are most certainly in the business of changing lives. May God bless the USA and each one of you. Have a great week!

