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Mrs. Smith



2017 Veterans Day Essay
Contest Winner
3rd Place, 7th Grade

Winslow Twp. Middle School
7 Grade

Why Do We Honor Veterans?

Veteran's Day is celebrated every November 11, a day where we honor and thank those living who fought for our freedom. It is acknowledged across the United States with parades, celebrations, and even a moment of silence for former fighters. There are numerous reasons why we should give recognition to these heroes,. Some of those being they risk their lives for us, they give us the freedom others don't have, and some died, or were left disabled physically and mentally for our country.

To begin, the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Marines risk their lives everyday to protect us. Most of us don't wake up thinking today may be the last day, but for the active military personnel it may be like that. They are brave individuals, who are selfless and take pride in what they do. In the two World Wars we fought in, more than 500,000 service members were lost. That means for hundreds of thousands of people knew that it's all over today. Risking themselves in battles and war, they paid the ultimate sacrifice in honor of America. Then, 100,000 more died in Vietnam and the Korean War just helping other countries. Again, in 2001, 7,000+ died in the Afghanistan War. That may seem like a lot less than the others, however, this conflict was only fought to try and end terrorism. To cut it short, many were lost in the name of extremists.

Continuing, all veterans fought to keep us and others free. They currently fight terrorism so we aren't targeted overseas. In Korea, the men and women of the armed forces battled to keep southerners free from North Korea. In 1941, they fought to keep us free from the bullies of the time, Germany, Italy, and Japan. They shed blood to keep us from rule of the Nazis and communism, and in WW1 fought to defend themselves and help other countries. The five branches all protect us from the oppositions overseas, and if war were to break out, they are there to protect us and keep us free even if it costs a life. The army protects us on and,

from traitors trying to harm us. The navy protects our waters, from outside predators to torpedos trying to target the States. Air force members keep the air clean! From incoming threats to foreign fighters playing on our soil. Personal from the Coast Guard secure of coasts, enforce the law on sea, and commit themselves to saving lives. Lastly, the Marines perform on land and sea depending on the circumstance. They all fight as one to keep us alive and free.

To continue, some veterans were left handicapped, both physically and mentally. Across the United States, many post-war fighters suffer from PTSD, a physical disability such as being wheelchair dependant or amputated, some ache in depression, and several thousand turning to alcohol and drugs. Some were left weakened in war, such as my grandfather. In World War II, my grandfather was a soldier in the war, and got his left pinky, ring, and middle finger shot off defending his men. The rest of his life, he had stubs for those fingers, which shows how one thing can lead to a whole life of hurt. My grandfather even considered himself lucky, because he said he's seen worse than what happen to him, and was grateful that's all that happened.

In conclusion, all veterans should be honored, from the ones who didn't actually battle and were there in case of emergency, to those who perished in war. Every year, the parades and celebrations are held in thanks to those who helped us to keep us free, which they are very deserving of. They risk their lives everyday, keep us free from the bad, and many left handicapped in battle, which makes a hero in my book.