

**Jackson Schaefer**



2017 Veterans Day Essay  
Contest Winner  
1<sup>st</sup> Place, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Mrs. Smith**

**Winslow Twp. Middle School  
8th grade**

### Veteran's Day

Could you possibly imagine putting your life at risk for this great country. Well, that is what countless Americans do on a daily basis. If you are willing to make this sacrifice, you should be honored, and that is why we celebrate Veteran's Day. Some people may think that Veteran's day has been acknowledged forever, but it officially started in 1918 to remember the end of WW1. That tradition expanded, and now we honor all veterans, even if they did not serve in that distinct war. Veterans deserve to be honored because they are brave, leave their families, and go through very troublesome events that can greatly impact their lives..

One of the main reasons that veterans should be honored is their bravery. They will do whatever it takes to help our great nation. For example, soldiers will put themselves in very hostile environments in order to keep the homeland safe. They will risk getting shot at, or blown up for the greater good. In my opinion, this is extremely courageous and has to be honored. Also, these soldiers are very brave in the fact that they will help each other before themselves. There have been many instances when a soldier has taken a bullet for a fellow soldier.

Another reason why veterans should be honored is that they leave their loving families for very long periods of time. This is not just brave in the terms of the soldiers; the family also is very courageous. The soldiers loved ones have to wait for them to return home, and sometimes that never happens. This will leave an emotional toll on the family that they will never get back. The soldier knows this while they are in the line of duty, but they will do whatever it takes to maintain this beautiful country.

The last reason why veterans should be honored is that they experience very traumatic events. Watching your friends get shot, blowing up your enemies, or seeing innocent people die will leave a mark on them. Because of these reasons, many veterans have PTSD. This is a very severe syndrome that will lead them to experience those harsh actions over and over again. If anyone has to live those this horrible events, they should definitely receive something in return. It may lighten their mood, or help them cope with the struggles.

To wrap it up, "Veteran's Day" should be celebrated and the veterans should be honored. They have put their life on the line, and should be honored for that. The veterans should be people we look up to, not people that we don't acknowledge. They are brave, courageous, and valiant. In conclusion, if you are a veteran you deserve to be recognized because of all the troubles you endured. As Ronald Reagan once said, "There are some who've forgotten why we have a military. It's not to promote war, it's to be prepared for peace."