

Skyler Anderson



2017 Veterans Day Essay
Contest Winner
2nd Place, High School

Mr. Pino

Winslow Township High School

12th Grade

Every November 11th, the federal holiday of Veterans day is observed by the entire United States of America. There are parades and banquets for veterans in their honor. There are celebrations all across the country. In Winslow Township there will be a Veterans Day Celebration held at the Winslow Township Municipal building. What's the big deal? Why should I care? Many ask these questions. The holiday of Veterans day deserves to be celebrated, however, I feel not as many people honor it as they should. Veterans day is overshadowed by more "exciting" holidays like Christmas and Halloween. If someone were to ask a random teenager what day Veterans day is, they most likely would scoff and just guess randomly. That same teenager would still be able to tell you the date of Christmas or maybe even a random celebrities birthday. That is maddening. How can something like a celebrities birthday be more important than a day honoring our Veterans? Despite Veterans day being gargantuanly underappreciated by the youth in our country, I still understand why we celebrate this holiday.

We celebrate Veterans day to remember those who served in the military and fought for our freedoms and right to live freely in this country. Many seem to confuse Veterans Day with Memorial Day. Memorial Day is the observation and remembrance of those who lost their lives fighting wars and battles oceans away for our freedoms. Veterans day is the day to look to the present day and honor those who went into the military to protect our country and survived. They are the living remnants of the Vietnam War, Korean Conflict, Iraq War, and the few still alive from the Second World War. Odds are someone alive today in anyone's families fought in these various wars for this country's freedoms.

Veterans day is a day for everyone to look for a family member, neighbor, teacher or even co-worker who served this country and thank them for risking their lives so we could live our lives to the fullest. Every Veterans Day, I call my father, a Veteran of the Vietnam War. He served as a Marine in the war. He to me sticks out though, he went into the war just months after having half his lung removed from the effects of cancer on it. He toughed it out because he wanted to serve this country to his fullest ability. I still believe every last veteran alive today would agree they would have done the same. The Veterans of our country are the toughest and most interesting people in this country today. They fought under the ideologies of the United States so their children and grandchildren could have a better life in this wonderful country for years to come. In retrospect, the people who know of Veterans Day celebrate it to remember the service and action their friend, family, and acquaintances who risked it all so we can have the freedoms this country was built on.