

Aliyah Jones

Veterans Day Essay Contest 2017



2017 Veterans Day Essay
Contest Winner
3rd Place, High School

Mr. Pino

Winslow Township High School

12th grade

They are one among us, but they are not average American citizens. Despite their absence of red capes and shining armor, these superheroes continuously insure our freedom. Without their courageous sacrifices America wouldn't be "the land of the free and the home of the brave". Privileges like walking a park or going to school wouldn't exist. These men and women we recognize as veterans provide their blood, sweat and tears in return for our freedom and independence. November 11th honors their dedication to this country.

World War I proved to be one of the deadliest wars in America. More than nine million lives lost and over twenty-one million people injured. This ghastly death toll dawned a reality. Without veterans America cannot impose the strength of freedom. In order to pay homage to World War I President Wilson commemorated November 11th as Armistice day. Not only did this day mark the end of the war, but it also marked a solemn remembrance of the lives that payed for freedom. In a move to use the holiday to honor the American soldiers of every war, Armistice day became Veteran's day.

Veterans' constant sacrifice and will to protect, empower our flag to be symbolic of our united nation. My ability to write this essay and your ability to read it would not be possible without their fight. Veteran's day is a day for honoring troops, reflecting on the service of those who did not survive and having pride in our military. When we are enjoying our lives veterans are enduring harsh conditions and fighting opposing enemies who wish to see America fail. There are over a million men and women who travel the world in pursuit of happiness and protection for America. In 1776, George Washington asked Betsy Ross she could sew what would become the American flag. Washington asked of this because he wanted a flag to sail fighting against Great Britain. Although there were thirteen colonies at that time, each colony made George Washington proud and eager to fight for their rights as humans. A simple "Thank you" will never suffice to the courageous battle of each of our soldiers, but it is our responsibility to make soldiers proud just as they make us proud. We will never be able to repay for the lives lost and damaged in war, but we can acknowledge the extraordinary performances of our

superheroes. Veteran's day is not just a day, but a holiday to celebrate the land of the free because of the brave.