

# Why Veterans Deserve Our Respect, Support, and Understanding

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Veterans are people who serve our country. They're people, male or female, all age 18 or older who are in the military and have completed their term of service. They fight in wars, go on deployments, they even sometimes risk losing their lives. Soldiers who have fought or are fighting should always be given respect and recognition. People who serve their country, leave their families, and risk getting hurt for our freedom, should be supported and understood.

Everyone should be supportive of veterans. They made our nation free, and they protect this country. These brave people volunteer their lives for people they don't even know. They may not agree with our opinions, our lifestyles, the food we eat, the way we raise our kids, or everyday issues, but they fight for us anyway. If you don't support veterans, you don't support freedom, safety, and protection.

We need to respect these people. We can't know the challenges that they face, and we can't even imagine the battles they've fought. They deserve respect for risking their lives and a possibility that their family could lose their mother, father, brother, sister, son, daughter, or relative. The article by Steven Vandervort, "What Does It Mean To Be A Veteran?" states, "We deeply love this country of ours and we're proud of it; our past, present, and future."

I don't feel most people in America understand the intensity of war, or military service. I don't believe they can without actually doing it themselves. With my father in the military for 26 years, even I didn't fully understand what he went through, and there's a possibility I never will. I do feel like most people understand, or should understand how dangerous it is, and the risks veterans take for this country.

We owe many thanks to the families of veterans and people in the military. Their relatives don't see them for multiple months, and don't know if they'll come back injured or even come back at

all. Being the Navy brat that I am, I remember my father not being there for many birthday parties, family vacations/trips, and holidays. I remember multiple video chats with my father and how he would always have a limited amount of time to talk. We have moved a total of 4 times since I was born, and many more before that. I have lived in 6 houses and gone to 7 different schools. My brother and I have had to say goodbyes to more friends than we can count. This has been normal life for me since I was born. Most people say that it sounds awful, but we are used to sacrificing a little for our country.

Although I wasn't allowed to know what my father did on his deployments, he did get to tell me about his trips. He usually brings back a little gift from each country, and I cherish every single one to this day. Since I didn't get to know what my dad was doing, it was every bit more scary. The fact that his work was so dangerous that no one could know what it was made it hard to know if he would be safe by the end of the day.

Veterans Day, November 11th, is a day to honor our veterans and their families. Most people don't really celebrate Veterans Day, but my family treats it like an expression of thanks to fellow military members. We usually do something small, like go out for a meal with my dad and always send greetings or online letters of thanks to people who we know that serve or are retired from the military. I always encourage others to celebrate this day and thank people they know in the military. This day is to honor our soldiers and to thank them for their service, so we should do what the day is for.

Veterans work hard for us every day. They work to protect us and our country, so they deserve respect, support, understanding, and to be honored. Risking their lives, some losing them, veterans deserve recognition and love from the very country that they protect.