

Why it is Important to Celebrate Veterans Day

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Every year upon the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the United States of America commemorates those citizens who dedicated their lives to serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. There is no coincidence that the number eleven is associated with angels to represent the exemplary conduct of these individuals. Without these valiant men and women, for whom we refer to as veterans, our nation would cease to exist. Since the American Revolution, veterans have patriotically fought to protect the rights and lives of American citizens and ensure that our beloved nation remains the "Land of the Free" that it greatly prides itself in being. Upon Nathan Hale's execution by the British, he cried out, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." As a "military brat", with a mother and grandfather who are veterans and an active-duty father, Veterans Day means much more than just another day of the year. November eleventh signifies a day in which Americans should recognize all living and deceased veterans who have given their service to our country, acknowledging the sacrifices these veterans have made, and taking pride in being a citizen of one of the world's most powerful nations to which we owe to the men and women who have served.

Upon Veterans Day, Americans should make a conscious effort to recognize all men and women who have served to protect our nation. Often times, the names of certain individuals get acknowledged in the media or recorded down in history, but the service of many other veterans goes unremarked upon. Throughout history, a plethora of individuals, especially minorities, have been discredited or left forgotten for their contributions to the American cause. Our education system is well known for teaching the youth about the famous white American men who served for our country, but neglecting the noble women, African Americans, and other minorities who also provided their services for our nation. My mother gave fourteen years of her life to serve in the U.S. Navy. She deserves to be acknowledged for her service just as much as any other veteran. Even if they aren't all specifically named, Veterans Day gives these dauntless men and women the national recognition and praise they deserve. Our military consists of an assortment

of specializations that all contribute to serving and protecting the United States. Without each and every one of these individuals' efforts, today's American citizens would not enjoy the precious freedoms and rights that our Founding Fathers inscribed in the U.S. Constitution, and our nation would more than likely fall apart.

Acknowledging all of the sacrifices our veterans have made for the protection of our country is crucial. There are numerous personal sacrifices that go into being in the service rather than possibly paying the paramount sacrifice of death. Those veterans who still hold their lives should not be discouraged. For some veterans, the sacrifice was not about losing their lives. It was fighting a war in their hearts, a war that broke these noble women and men to the bane of their existence: not being in two places at once. Not only are veterans victims to this internal conflict, but so are their friends and families. My mother can still recall the time when she was forced to go out to sea and leave me, her newborn daughter, behind with her family in Puerto Rico. Over the course of ten long months, she missed out on my first crawl, my first footsteps, and my first words. For parents, the precious moments are irreversible. People who aren't in the eservice often take these moments for granted. One never knows the true value of a moment until it has passed. In the end, veterans pay a substantial sacrifice of time. Through their patience, words of encouragement, and continual support, the friends and families of veterans served as a catalyst for continuing the fight to protect the rights and freedoms of American citizens. For these reasons, they also deserve to be honored. Many of our veterans depart from the military with critical physical and mental conditions and are faced with the difficult task of re-entering society as a civilian. Veterans Day serves as a day to honor our fallen and standing soldiers who sacrificed their time, service, and possibly lives for the better of our nation.

In addition to Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, Veterans Day serves as another day to celebrate our vigorous patriotism for our country. Although our nation has much needed room for improvement, our nation has also considerably advanced since its birth in 1776. In the midst of chaos and tragedy occurring in the world and within our country, Americans should take advantage of this day to unite with one another over a barbeque or ceremony and wave our flags

high in pride of the accomplishments we have made as a country. Despite the U.S. being relatively young in comparison with other countries, our nation holds its rightful title as the most dominant economic and military power in the world. The great “American Dream” would not be possible without the substantial contributions of all our veterans.

November eleventh is more than just another day of the year. It is crucial for Americans to unite and recognize our fallen and standing soldiers, acknowledge the sacrifices these veterans have made, and commemorate the achievements American citizens have made as a nation. The everlasting courage and bravery of our veterans should never go unhonored. The fire ignited in the spirits of men and women alike who sacrificed their time or lives to protect ours shapes the reasons as to why Americans should celebrate Veterans Day. Each and every one of our citizens should take the time to thank a veteran for their passionate dedication to fighting for the American Cause.