

Why We Celebrate Veterans Day

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This is a quote by President Ronald Reagan. "Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they have suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us." Veterans day is a day set aside in November to remember and honor people in the active military or the retired military. This includes those who have fought in wars or just served our country in times of peace. Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11th every year. This date was established in 1954. Veterans Day celebrates all branches of the military.

My family has served in the military *for* many generations. My father is in the Florida National Guard and was deployed to Afghanistan protecting our country when I was born. A few years ago, he went to Texas for thirteen months protecting the southern border. My mom is currently in the Coast Guard and was deployed to Fort Myers to help people and make sure they were safe after Hurricane Ian. My grandfather was in the army for 28 years. Thirteen of these years were spent overseas away from his family. My other grandfather was in the Marines and saw combat in Viet Nam. I also have ancestors who served in The Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, The American Civil War, World War I, World War II and The Korean War.

My favorite family veteran is my Great Grandfather. He wanted to join the service as soon as WWII started but he was only 15. In his hometown, they knew how old he was and they would not let him join. Our military members have to be able to be resilient after setbacks. So what did he do? He ran away from his home in Michigan and went to Chicago. He joined the Navy there. He served the entire war on an Aircraft Carrier in the Pacific Ocean and earned many medals. Later, he transferred to the Army during the Korean War. Next, he was a helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. My Great Grandfather was able to bounce back after he was told he couldn't join. He ended up serving in the military for over 20 years.

Veterans Day is to celebrate not just service members in war but those who serve in peacetime. All military members sacrifice a lot. We celebrate Veterans Day because brave men and women put their life on the line to serve and protect our country. Our veterans are proud of their service. Wherever we see a veteran, we should talk to them and thank them for their service. Everyone of them is a hero and makes sure our country is safe. Our veterans protect this country by sacrificing their time and sometimes even their lives for us.