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### What Veterans Day Means To Me

Men, women, young and old, people who are like you and me, but are also very different. These people are our country's Veterans. Veterans Day to me means those who have done things that others weren't willing to do. Veterans are the people who go onto the battlefield knowing that they will be forever changed afterwards. My mother's father, Papa, served in World War II and was part of the 36th Infantry. Fragments of shrapnel exploded in his face and upper body with what appeared to be a mortal wound. So, on a pile of dead bodies he layed, until one of his fellow infantrymen came over and saw air bubbles in the blood on his face. By seeing this, he knew my Papa was still alive. If it weren't for that man 11 children, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren would not be here today.

My father's father, Pa, served in the Vietnam War at the age of 34. In his own words he states he fought for his life day in and day out. My Pa was the Senior Enlisted Advisor in Pleiku, Vietnam. He delivered artillery wherever it was that the South Vietnamese needed it. It was a job that could be dangerous because they didn't always know when the Viet Cong may attack. Besides

both of my grandfathers, I have uncles, great-uncles and cousins who have served in the United States Military. Veterans Day means so much to me because of the thought that crosses my mind that they keep me safe. They keep our country safe and free from those who would rather see us dead. It is because of all these men and women that I am able to go to school. It is because of the hardships these men and women have every single day that I may pray openly to God without the fear of being killed. These men and women are the reason why I can sleep peacefully each night while their families are worried for them at the same time. These Veterans did not only give their time to the military, but also sacrificed time away from their own families so that all people of this country can continue to be free. These men and women who have seen what others have not, done what others could not, and refused to succumb to the fears that they witnessed during war are our Veterans. Our veterans are the people in our country who came back different, stronger and fearless. And for the Veterans who couldn't be here today, who would never have a family to carry on their legacy, because during their time of duty they made the ultimate sacrifice so that others wouldn't have to, we say Thank You.

So, Veterans Day to me means that I may live in peace whilst others live in havoc because of the challenges and tragedies these soldiers face for me and for you. God Bless our Veterans, who to me are among the most selfless men and women you can ever meet. We are the home of the free because of the brave. The brave who have gone to hell and back. The brave who have witnessed what I will never have too. Seemingly ordinary people we pass in our everyday life, some neglected on the sidewalks or isolated in their homes. Without even realizing we walk amongst the bravest of all heroes, our Veterans.