

Hattie

Veterans Day Essay

Veterans Day honors all of those who have served the United States during war or in times of peace. Veterans Day is important to me because I have two veterans in my family. Those two men have served and continue to serve our country. Here are some things I learned from them.

My grandfather, who I call Pepe, served in the Army: He was a Second Lieutenant with the Infantry and served in the Vietnam War. The Infantry is called the backbone of the army because they are on the ground as the main combat force. When I asked him he said Veterans Day was important to him because it recognized all people who served this country and it acknowledges their sacrifices. My dad was born when Pepe was at war. Many men and women of that generation sacrificed so much for us. I'm proud of my Pepe and all the hard things he did so I could be safe.

My second cousin, who I call Bubba, serves in the Air Force as a Director of Operations for the Special Tactics Support Squadron. I was able to talk to him from his work and here is what he shared with me. He works with a very specialized group of people to be prepared to go on a mission with whatever they need to be safe and ready. Just in the last 15 years he has lived in 8 different places, which is a big sacrifice. I asked him what was hard about his job and he said some of his personal liberties are taken away so he can stay ready to serve and be available to respond to conflict and humanitarian needs whenever his country asks. He is paid for some of the things he does every day, but he writes a blank check with his life because he is willing to give up anything for his country. He wants people to know that the military are hardworking people that are truly prepared to handle and protect us and all we believe in. . . .

In talking to my family I learned that there are three holidays dedicated to veterans and military members. The first is Armed Forces Day in May that celebrates people who are currently serving. This is so important because we take for granted the daily sacrifices these heroes make. While we are thinking about holidays and the discomforts of a pandemic or even what to do tomorrow, there are people preparing to serve all the time. Memorial Day is the holiday for everyone who passed away while serving and honoring those who have made the greatest sacrifice of all. We acknowledge Veterans Day because it marked the end of World War One.

It's hard to think that during times of war that some people didn't have a choice to join the military and now you can choose to serve our country as a full time job. I am thankful that my family continues to sacrifice for my safety and the safety of everyone I know. Our nation is lucky to have generations that have given so much and we should all take more time to acknowledge our military members.

