Stand Beside Them

Everywhere we go can be seen posters, signs, bumper stickers, etc—all with a common theme; Support the Troops. Obviously it usually applies to the troops fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere right now. However, something we often don't realize is that we need to not only support our troops fighting now, but also our troops that have fought in the past—that is, our veterans. We need to stand beside them.

Just because veterans of past wars are not fighting right now doesn't mean that they don't need to be remembered and honored. Many of our veterans gave up a good portion of their lives in order to fight for our freedom. Many have been wounded and disabled in these wars—their lives have been forever changed. These men sacrificed what they wanted and put first the future of this country and our freedom. They fought and many died so that we might live. We can encourage them and stand beside them in many different ways—letters, prayers, visiting them, and even just letting them know how much we appreciate what they have done, and that they are not forgotten. We can show them that we care by asking about their experiences and finding out about the history of the wars they've been in. Our veterans need to know that we are thankful to them.

Without our troops (and thus our veterans) America would be nothing. If a country is not defended and believed in, then it will fall. In believing in our veterans, we are believing in our country, and helping to make it a better place not just for us, but for our future generations. We are loyal to America—we stand beside her. Just so we should be loyal to our troops—we need to stand beside them.