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Respect, Honor & Gratitude

You can't always tell a veteran just by looking at them. You don't always know when they're around. Sometime you pass them at the grocery store or at the mall and have no idea that they served our country to keep you, a stranger, alive. That is why Veteran's Day is so important; it recognizes the men and women hiding in the shadows and brings them to light.

Veteran's Day is a holiday that honors the men and women who served our country and are still alive today. Cities all around the country celebrate with parades and tributes to recognize these brave people. Before 1954, Veteran's Day was called Armistice Day to give thanks to the veterans that served in World War I. Eventually, the name changed in order to include ALL the men and women who served in ALL wars, not just World War I.

On November 11th, people who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Air Force and Coast Guard have the chance to take center stage. It gives people like me a chance to thank them for their sacrifice and time, because even if I don't get to see them, they know in their hearts that ALL kids in ALL schools are celebrating their brave acts.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." These men and women who fight overseas give up their everyday conveniences, so that us, random strangers, can

stay safe and have comfort. And to me, that is the ultimate way to show respect and honor for your country.

It is a privilege to live in The United States of America, and what better way to thank the people who make it possible then by celebrating them on Veteran's Day.