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A Veteran is Much More

The Code of Federal Regulations states a veteran as, "A person who served in the active military, naval or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable." Although this may be true, a veteran is much more than this to me. I feel in my heart that a veteran is a hero with great honor because of their service. I looked up in the thesaurus and it had gracious synonyms for the word "Veteran." It states that a veteran is also known as skilled, disciplined and wise.

I have many family members active in the Army, Navy and Air Force. All of them are strong, amazing men located around the world risking their life to help provide for their wife and family. I never realized when I was younger what a brave choice they made to protect our country. Without all of the Americans who have served our country, we would not be here today. Thousands of men and women have died for our freedom and so we cannot take this for granted. That is why we celebrate veterans every year, because they defend and serve for people in all different situations.

I cannot understand or imagine what veterans have gone through, and I most likely never will. I can only dream I will grow to be as brave and wise like any veteran I've ever met. A great man named Elmer Davis once said, "This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

So, let us give this day in honor of veterans across the nation. Thank you for your service and thank you for my freedom.