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Unsung Heroes

November 11 every year is a day when all Americans celebrate the heroes of our nation, veterans. We see veterans every day, and sometimes even know them personally, but we are often unaware that they are veterans. Veterans Day is the one day of the year we set aside to let the veterans of our nation shine and be recognized for what they have done for us, people they may even know.

To someone my age, a role model might be a superhero like Spiderman or Batman. To us, joining the military seems like an ordinary thing to do. We think of it as just another job someone can have, but really, when someone chooses to join the military they are pledging their lives to defend millions of people they don't know, and to me that is braver than any fictional superhero. Men and women who join the military are my superheroes.

During my final year at elementary school, one song that my choir learned was called *Let Us Sing For Unsung Heroes*. Some of the lyrics said, "Sing a song for unsung heroes. Sing from sea to shining sea. As the faithful sang before you, sing a song of liberty." Let today and every day be one we give back to the unsung heroes around us. I have two grandfathers who served in the U.S. military, one in the Army and one in the Marines. At one point last year, I began to talk to my grandfather about his time serving in the Marines. It turned into one of the most fascinating conversations in my life. Today I would like to thank my

grandfathers for risking their lives to give me the country I have to live in today.
And I thank all the other unsung heroes I have never met for helping shape our
amazing country. A poem I recently heard starts like this:

They are heroes among us

They protect us every day

It's not just their job

It's their chosen way.

They are mothers and fathers

Sisters and brothers

Their uniform is a symbol

Of their commitment to others.

There are more than 20 million veterans in the United States and I respect
and thank these unsung heroes today, tomorrow and forever.