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Before writing this, I searched the definition of a veteran on the internet. I found a lot of things, but the definition that I found is something like this: "A person who has served in a military force, especially one who has fought in a war". This definition is accurate but in my opinion incomplete. Every time I hear the word veteran, a lot of feelings start going through my mind, feelings of joy and pride for those who risked their lives to save an entire nation.

One day like any other, there were a lot of young men who received a letter that said they had to go to war. Those men were normal human beings like any other, but what they didn't know yet is that someday in the future (also known as today) there would be a safe, strong, loyal country because of their brave sacrifice and commitment.

Not just anyone is brave enough to risk their life and give up their youth for people who they haven't even met or seen, and that's one of the reasons America is one of the greatest nations of all time. We are great not only because of what we have achieved, but also because of how we achieved it. That's how we achieved freedom, through the love and courage that every veteran left in the battlefield. Although some were lost while they fought for our freedom, we will always remember them with pride and gratefulness.

A veteran loves his country and the people in it; he also has determination because he kept fighting every day even though he knew it could be their last fight. A veteran has a lot of virtues that wouldn't fit on these piece of paper, but I think overall a veteran is a HERO! It's so simple and complicated at the same time to understand what

a hero is. Sometimes we don't even realize all the heroes we have among us, that we make our own; but if I know something in this world is that a veteran is the best example you could find of a hero. A veteran is a hero not only because they saved us and the generations to come, but also because they inspire people every day, people like me.

Every time I listen to a veteran talk about his adventures, my heart fills with adrenaline to help others, and make a change like they did; that's why besides being TRUE HEROES, veterans are also TEACHERS. They teach me how to make a change for our country doing something with passion and love for it.

With all that said, I think that tiny definition is NOT enough to describe a veteran and his actions; in fact, I think there will never be a word or phrase to describe what they have done for the old, present and future America, but every American citizen should be proud to live among true heroes and teachers that inspire us to be better every day.