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When I think of the word country, various thoughts come to my mind. In my opinion the most important thing for a country is freedom. There are many different types of freedoms in the United States including the freedom of speech and freedom of religion. These freedoms can influence other rights to make free choices.

To me, honor is being yourself, by that I mean not being afraid to be someone who stands out, being able to think for yourself as well as doing what you believe to be the right thing to do. There are some people in this world who want to be considered an honorable person, even though they just follow others, and don't really think for themselves. It takes a real individual with a good sense of self-worth to stand up for themselves to think.

I think that veterans symbolize and bring out the best of both definitions for country and honor. Throughout history, many veterans have left their families to fight and risk their lives for our country. That is one reason why they get honored. When they have to fight, some are scared. Even though they were scared and hungry, they still fought hard and proud and that is what made them an honorable person.

On Veterans Day, we honor and thank all of the military who served the United States in all wars, especially living veterans. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day which became a legal holiday to honor the end of World War I which took place on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour. It is celebrated by having parade and fun activities and in many places, the American flag is hung at half mast. Some schools are closed on Veterans Day, but choose to mark the occasion with various activities.

As you can see, the words honor and country define veterans. Veterans serve and fight for their country. So let us pause to celebrate those who have served and continue to serve our great country.