

## Their Service - Our Freedom

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Today we honor the American soldier. Whether you believe in the motto "Support our troops", or question whether our troops should be risking their lives Afghanistan – today, we all agree, is the time to honor those military veterans who have served our country.

Veteran's Day was not established to encourage Americans to support their nation's wars. Veteran's Day was established to honor the American soldiers, our veterans, who risked their lives for us, and for the freedom of every American.

In every military action, in every war, there are lives risked, lives altered and lives taken. To those veterans who have died, we owe the obligation to show appreciation and remembrance.

To those veterans who still live, some of whom carry with them horrifying memories of battle, we owe respect for their sacrifice. We asked our American soldiers to give up so much for us. They left loved ones behind so that others didn't have to; they followed orders every day, even when they knew they were risking death. They left careers to work at dangerous assignments, hard days - hard nights, sometimes both. Many faced fear in far away places. For some, their service held the shock and horror of watching strangers, and sometimes even friends, die. They sacrificed to make the world a better place to live.

While enjoying this day off with family and friends, we should take a second to say thanks you to all who served, and to all their families who waited behind. Your service to our country, in whatever capacity you served, helped change the fabric of our lives. For one day a year we honor you, our veterans, our fighting men and women, with parades and speeches, but it is not enough.

Veteran's Day is only one day in November, yet every single day we take advantage of our freedom as Americans. And so, today we pay homage to those who served. We thank you on this day of remembrance, but in reality we owe you our thanks every day.