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Every day, thousands of men and women put on the uniform of the United States of America and fight for our country's freedom. Veterans' Day is when we celebrate and honor those people and the ones here for their heart and dedication they have put into the U.S military.

Because my grandfather is a proud Marine who fought in Vietnam, I have always been mindful of and proud of our veterans. I remember going to visit the Vietnam Memorial with him in Washington, D.C. He spent hours reading every name on the wall. I was too young to really get it then, but now I think I am beginning to understand. He was only in his early 20's when he was in Vietnam and a lot of other Marines were only 17 and 18 years old! Now that I am 13, I have a different view of that. My grandfather was just a baby when his father, my great-grandfather went to fight in World War II. I have a bit of an unusual family heritage in that I have one great-grandfather who fought for the U.S. Navy in WW II and another great-grandfather who fought unwillingly for the Germans.

When I think about war, I tend to think also about our current wars, the wars of my generation, Iraq and Afghanistan. Now that I am old enough to know more about September 11, 2001, the more thankful I am that we have brave soldiers trying to keep something that horrible from happening again. Taking out Osama Bin Ladin was a huge victory for those who died that day.

I think that it is important that we take time to admire all those men and women who sacrifice their lives each and every day to keep us safe. There are kids who don't see their moms and dads for months because they are in a far-off land protecting us. We sleep safely at

night knowing they are protecting us. Now that I am a teenager, it is scary to think that so many teenagers have fought in these wars.

All of our past, present, and future veterans deserve to be recognized for their efforts in our wars for helping save, protect and serve our country proudly. Take a little time every day to stop and admire those who have served proudly in the U.S military.

Tommy Sommer

7th grade; Clay Middle School