

Janessa Murphy
Elementary Division

What Veterans Day Means to Me

November 11th is a day we, as Americans, should never take for granted. Not only is it the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, which marked the end of World War I, but it is also a day to honor the veterans who fought for and are still fighting for our country. They gave us the freedoms we carelessly enjoy today. Veterans Day is a time to celebrate, honor, and thank the veterans of America whether they have passed away, retired, or are continuing to serve.

Veterans have helped all of us. We have freedoms to have our own religion, to voice our opinions, to assemble with others, to bear arms, to have an education, to own property, and have equality for all. We can now go to church with our family and friends. We can attend any church we choose to. We also have the right to defend ourselves. We are all enjoying these freedoms given to us by the veterans and we should repeatedly thank them for their service.

For many generations, I have had family serving in the military. My great-great grandfather, Paris Howard, was a World War II veteran who helped construct the first atomic bomb in 1945. He helped test the bomb in the desert of New Mexico before winning World War II. My great grandfather, John Paul Murphy, served in the U.S. Navy. Also, my uncle, Bryan Somera, is currently serving his fourth year in the Navy.

Veterans are prepared to risk their lives so that we can live peacefully. They protected us and some continue to each day. Veterans all share the same traits of patriotism, willingness, loyalty, pride, and integrity. They are always willing to support and protect our country. We are protected and safe because of veterans. We have many freedoms that we so neglectfully enjoy because of veterans who have sacrificed so much from having to endure the struggles that they face daily, while having to be away from their families. We are a free country because of the sacrifices they have made. Veterans have helped us become such a great country that people in less fortunate countries immigrate to America to enjoy the liberties and opportunities that we do.

Veterans have made an impact on each and every one of our lives. Every freedom that we have were given to us by the veterans. It's a relief to know that there are selfless men and women dedicating their lives to protect our country. Veterans have made an enormous impact in my life and have taught me to stand up and honor this country.