

Why do you think it is important to celebrate Veterans Day?

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Since 1918, November 11th has been an extremely important day in the United States and throughout the world. This day marks the end of World War I, when an armistice was reached between the Allies and Central Powers on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. One year later, in 1919, this day's significance continued as President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that the day would be henceforth known as "Armistice Day" to celebrate the veterans of the War to End All Wars and the sacrifices they made. Furthermore, in 1954, it was changed so that veterans of all wars would be commemorated on this day, and, under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the name was altered. The day became known as Veterans Day. Veterans Day should be celebrated for a number of reasons. Veterans should be celebrated to show appreciation for their sacrifices and the work they do in their community. It allows the citizens of our country to give back to these brave men and women.

During each war throughout the history of the United States, soldiers are forced to face the possibility of death each day and make several sacrifices. Besides the minor injuries received during wartime, these individuals may suffer from lifelong conditions. For example, they may lose a limb during battle and be forced to adapt to this new way of life, everything becoming much more difficult than ever before. Furthermore, they may develop disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder. This condition completely changes both the life of the individual as well as those who are closest to them. From this, everything reminds the veteran of the war experience. Simple objects become the dangers they faced each day in battle conditions. A firework may sound like an explosion in their camp; an unexpected item in the road becomes a grenade launched in front of their vehicle. Life becomes much harder as these veterans are forced to readapt to life without a war. In addition, these brave soldiers have interrupted the course of their lives, putting all of their plans on hold to fight for our country. They have given up a great deal of time at home with their families. Instead of celebrating birthdays or holidays with those they love the most, they are risking their lives to give their families and loved ones a better future. These veterans have given up so much to fight for America and its beliefs. Celebrating Veterans Day allows them to be recognized for their sacrifices and all that they have given to our country.

Even after the war, veterans continue to work to better our nation. The hard work they learned from fighting in a war carries back to their daily lives once they come home. Upon return, many veterans want to continue to help their community. To do this, several of them join organizations to aid others. For instance, The Mission Continues is a group that works to get veterans to serve within their communities. It has two different programs that these individuals can participate in. One of these, the Fellowship Program, allows veterans to work for a nonprofit organization for

about 20 hours per week during a six-month span. This project also has a leadership course in which these individuals reflect back on their time in the war and consider the direction they want to go in now that their military service has come to an end. The second program is the Platoons Program. In this, veterans can serve in their community at least twice a month while also getting to know each other and help each other readjust to civilian life. This organization is just one of many that allows these men and women to give even more to our nation, serving not just in the battlefields, but also at home within their communities. Therefore, veterans should be commemorated on the day of November 11th to recognize all that they have given to their communities and country, the United States of America.

Finally, this significant day in history, Veterans Day, allows the people to give back to those men and women who have done so much for our country and those who live here. Throughout the year, the service of our veterans goes unnoticed by so many in the United States. However, this day gives individuals the opportunity to show appreciation for those who have fought for this great nation. During this time, flags are placed everywhere for everyone to see. Graves are decorated with flags and flowers of red, white, and blue. Memories of our many wars are recalled and the history of all United States wars are relearned. Even parades are held and essays are written to celebrate these courageous individuals. Without this day, many of these commemorations would not occur, leaving veterans to continue on in day to day life, becoming invisible to all other members of our society. Instead, on Veterans Day, we work to show them that their contributions are greatly appreciated and that they have done a tremendous service for our country and the people within it.

Veterans Day is a time for the citizens of the United States to celebrate the veterans of this nation for their sacrifices and continued contributions to society. This commemoration allows these brave soldiers to be recognized and appreciated for their efforts to help make this country the safest and best home for millions of individuals. Therefore, this day should be celebrated in order for America to give back to its veterans, those who have worked and will never stop working to better our nation, the nation they love and will always put above themselves.