

The following essays were read at the Veterans' Day Assembly at Lake Louise Elementary School in Palatine, Illinois. We SALUTE these students and their teachers! They certainly understand the meaning of our motto ~ HONOR THE SERVICE and REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE.

A Tribute to Veterans
By Heather

Some people think, "Veterans, So what?" Well, they couldn't be more wrong. Veterans have done so much for us. It is because of them that we have freedom. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion and overall freedom to live our lives as we desire. As we look throughout history, you can see how the brave men and women of our country have fought for freedom – for themselves and for others.

During the Revolutionary War, we fought to get out from under British rule. In the Civil War, we fought for the freedom of the slaves. WWI was fought to make the world safe for democracy. WWII was for the freedom of not only the United States, but its Allies. In the Vietnam War, we fought to stop the spread of communism. Today we are fighting terrorism in Iraq.

These men and women gave everything for their freedom and the freedom of others. They left their families, they went to faraway lands, and they have sacrificed their time, their limbs and even their lives. People need to realize – Freedom isn't free! It comes at a cost and we need to be thankful for those that are willing to pay it.

Thank You Veterans
By Rebecca

I am very thankful for all the veterans fighting for our country and our freedom. Every minute they are there, they risk their lives for our rights. Veterans make our lives better and safer because they fight and work hard to keep our freedom of speech, religion, and of the press.

The first reason why I am thankful is that they fight even if they're afraid. Sometimes, maybe most of the time, veterans can be afraid to fight because they are risking their lives for each and every one of us to have the rights we have.

The second reason why I am thankful to veterans is their sacrifice. Whenever veterans fight they sacrifice their lives and health. Some of them come back with a lost body part or a life threatening sickness. They also sacrifice their families and homes. Sometimes they don't see their husbands, wives, children, or even newborn babies for many months or even years.

The final reason why I am thankful for all the veterans is because they are loyal and brave. They are brave because they go out and fight even though it could be their final day standing up for our country. They are loyal because they keep their promise to go out and fight for our freedom, our rights, and our country.

Thank you veterans for standing up for our country and risking your lives for us. I think you are some of the bravest and most loyal people. I want to say thanks and I am so happy to be living in a safe, free country that has wonderful men and women like veterans. THANKS!

Veterans Are Our Heroes

By Sofia

Imagine being ruled by another country, not having freedom. Being told what to do and not having a say in it. Luckily we aren't ruled by another country and we do have freedom. We aren't told what to do and if we are, we can defend ourselves. All our privileges and our freedoms are due to our veterans. Our veterans have sacrificed a lot, they are very brave and they have always kept us free.

First of all, veterans have fought or are fighting right now to keep us safe and free. While our veterans have fought, they have also sacrificed a lot. They have sacrificed their life so that we aren't ruled by another country. They have also sacrificed their lives so that we have our rights and freedom. Veterans have sacrificed their health. Many, many veterans have come back with injured arms and legs. Some veterans have also come back not able to hear. But worst of all some veterans have died protecting us and we should all be thankful.

In addition, veterans are extremely brave. When veterans are fighting and they know they are in danger, they don't back down. Veterans know that if they back down they will disappoint everyone who believes in them. We should really be thankful that veterans don't back down even if they are scared. Because being scared but still going into war is brave. I don't know anyone who is braver than our veterans.

Lastly, yet most importantly, veterans have kept us free as long as I know. If veterans hadn't fought the British, we would still be ruled by kings. If veterans hadn't fought in WWII, Nazi's would still be controlling people. As you can see, veterans have fought for us; we can have freedom of speech, religion, and freedom of the press. All our freedoms and rights are due to our veterans, and that's a lot that veterans have done for us.

In conclusion, veterans are the coolest people I know. They have sacrificed their lives, they are extremely brave, and they keep us free. So, when someone asks you who the bravest people are, you must say, "Veterans!"

Veteran's Day

By Diana

On this Veteran's Day, we remember that every day veterans, men and women in the military, protect and defend our country. They have many qualities, but the most important are that they are brave, they sacrifice, and are protectors of our freedoms.

To begin with, veterans were, and are brave. We all feel fear in the face of danger, but only those who are truly valiant and loyal do not turn away. Every day people risk their lives fighting for their beliefs. Many are injured, but they return to serve once more. Furthermore, veterans are brave because they stay, even when they know that they may be hurt or killed. They not only work for themselves, but for others and their country. They also give up a bit of their life to guard our nation. Veterans and people in the military endure hardships, such as staying alert in the cold weather when they are extremely chilled and tired. They finish their work and try to do it in the best way.

In addition to the qualities of veterans, they make difficult sacrifices and stick to them. Many have families: brothers, sisters, parents, children, husbands and/or wives, but they commit themselves to making our country better for them by serving every day. The armed forces give up the comfort and happiness of their homes, the entertainment they enjoy, and the life they lead to make sure others don't have to. Whenever they enter the Air Force, Coast Guard, or other force, they risk their health and state of being. In an accident or attack, men and women can lose an arm or be severely damaged. He/She might catch an incurable sickness, but they still persevere.

As a final point, veterans fought to protect our freedoms. More than 200 years ago, courageous men fought to free us from England's clutches. They also fought in the First and Second World Wars, working to help not only themselves, but other countries who served a noble cause. They faced starvation, freezing temperatures, and numerous difficulties. Whenever they defeat a country, our military helped with the reconstruction of the damage the war had caused. Up until the present day, men and women have been suffering to let us enjoy freedoms. Their efforts have been successful because now all of us have freedom of the press, speech, religion, and are allowed to vote. Freedom of religion was what brought settlers here in the first place and because of veterans we can now practice any religion, or none at all. The most important achievement however, is that we can vote. In other countries many people are not allowed to choose their leader.

In conclusion, veterans have worked hard for us to have what we have. They were (and are) valiant, have sacrificed, and have always fought to protect our freedom. Veteran's Day is very special and we must remember to be thankful for all that they have done, and are doing, Veteran's Day is a holiday to honor the military and those who served and died for our country.