

November 11th is the day that Americans celebrate its Veteran's Day. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is when "The Great War" officially ended. It was known as Armistice Day. It was a day established to remember the heroism of those who died in service of our country and the world. Later it became known as Veterans Day. Throughout U.S. history, over one million people have given their lives to protect our freedoms and our way of life and even more have sacrificed so much so that we can enjoy those freedoms.

When I sit and think about all that I had seen in my years of service, I am filled with a sense of pride that no one can take away from me. Most veterans that have answered the call are proud to have been a part of protecting and serving our great nation. I sit here today remembering all those that I served with, the good times and the horrific, and I think about all those who have passed the torch of freedom onward. Mourning the loss of my comrades, but proud of who they were and what they have done I think of my Grandfather. He served in World War II and had lost many of his brothers during one of the naval battles in the pacific. I think of how he was blessed by God to still be here, even after his own ship's weapons magazine exploded.

His story and many others like this live through the dreams of those who protect our country. They live every day remembering the sacrifices their brothers and sisters made for all of us. So on this day, November 11th, it should be everyone's duty to show our respect and our profound appreciation to all those who have served. If not for their sacrifices, we would not have the ability to sit and watch our evening TV, drink a hot latte on a park bench, perform music in front of thousands of people, or feel safe and secure in our own home.

People have grown so accustomed to having their freedoms and rights that they have started to take for granted all that has been sacrificed in order for them to enjoy those rights. This day should serve as a reminder to all those whom have never seen the world through the eyes of a veteran or service member, how lucky they truly are. For without our service members past and present, this world would be an entirely different place and one that I feel would have destroyed itself.

I am truly thankful for all my brothers and sisters that have served in the armed forces for all their dedication, devotion, loyalty, courage, and honor. It is because of them, that I am able to live my life the way I do today. I pray for those that have had the torch passed onto them. I pray that they never see things like the ones before them. However, I am grateful and proud to know that they will pick up the spear and continue on, no matter the struggle that may lie ahead.

From the deepest part of my heart and soul, I send a profound and resonating "Thank You" to all those out there who protect our great nation. Thank you for your sacrifice and your courage. Thank you to your families for supporting your devotion to our freedoms. But most of all, thank you for doing what others are not capable of doing. Thank you for being a Veteran.

God Bless

Justin Kane - U.S. Navy Veteran -1997 to 2006