

## Veterans: The Source of Our Freedom

“When drinking water, remember its source.” This famous Chinese proverb illustrates a crucial principle that we should all have—to be thankful. Many Americans today take for granted one of the most important things we have, freedom. In our world, freedom is truly precious, and we should never forget to thank the veterans who loved their country enough to stand in defense of America and keep our nation free.

To be a veteran is to be an embodiment of courage itself. A veteran is someone who showed great bravery in face of some of the worst circumstances of the world, witnessing horrors that many people can't imagine. They saw things every day that could shatter anyone—the deaths of innocent civilians, friends who were never to walk again, places without hope. Still America's veterans stayed strong and didn't give into their fear, didn't run from battle, and never gave up. Their amazing courage saved countless lives and improved millions more.

The unwavering loyalty of America's veterans is incredible. Veterans left behind their families, their homes, and their lives to serve our country. They were ready to sacrifice their lives and risk everything to protect the freedom of the American people. However, they didn't just protect America—America's veterans have also often fought to improve the lives of people all over the world. They have

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battled for democracy, basic human rights, and to free the oppressed. Sometimes, veterans have even fought for causes that they don't believe in. The loyalty of these veterans is especially awe-inspiring, for they are willing to risk life and limb for something they really don't think is worth it. Regardless of how veterans view the war they fought in, though, all should be honored for their resolute loyalty under perilous risks.

America's freedom is a treasured thing, and was not easily bought. So many veterans fought to keep America free, and so many lives were lost in the protection of our nation. We should never forget the veterans' sacrifices, and we should always honor those who stood in defense of our country. If you drink water, remember its source—and if you live in America, if you cherish its freedoms and value its principles of democracy, honor its veterans.