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Veterans Day Essay

Have you ever wondered what it is like to leave your home and serve in a war? Having no clue where you are going. Or what you have to do. There are many people who have had to do that and do that everyday still. This is why we need to honor these people, they gave up so much before they even started serving our country. And they gave up so much once they started serving. So much you probably can't even fathom. I know that it's not something I can fathom, having to leave your family and go into the unknown of another country or to a base where you have to go through so much before you even have to fight. This is why we need Veterans Day, so we can honor the people who had to do this and go through so much everyday.

Veterans Day is an important day when we honor all of the individuals who have served our country. This includes all who are alive, and also those who gave their lives for our country. Veterans Day is celebrated in the 11th month on the 11th day of the 11th hour. That day was chosen because that is when World War I ended. It was origonlly Armistic Day to honor World War I Veterans. Then after World War II and the Korean War it was named Veterans Day to honor all Veterans.

Veterans Day is important to me because my grandpa served in the Vietnam War. He was drafted and served for two years, for his first year he was stationed in a base in North Carolina. While there he worked on repairs for that base. Then for his second year he was stationed Vietnam, while there he was apart of a transportation company that brought materials to many bases in Vietnam. My grandpa didn't have a choice which is a devestating thought. He was taken from his normal life and had to do the terrifying thing of being a part of a war. That is something that makes me very unhappy knowing that so many people, like my grandpa, were taken out of their daily lives to do something horrible they didn't sign up for. And even if the draft may have been very necessary due to the number of soldiers that were needed it is still very sad that people had to be taken like that.

The Vietnam War was a very controversial war. People didn't like the draft, and the amount of media coverage along with a lot of other things. The draft as I previously stated is something that is very depressing and many people felt, just as I do, that it was not good, as necessary as it

might have been. The media coverage was another thing that people didn't like because it was the first war that there was media coverage. So people were getting daily broadcasts on their TV's. Americans didn't enjoy this because these broadcasts were usually graphic images of casualties.

When I talked to my grandpa I also asked him about his experience When he came back to America. I asked him this because I knew that many soldiers were misteated on their return due to the controversies. He told me that he was not treated well and people had little respect. People just didn't care about the soldiers. This is so disappointing because these people went through so much during their time serving, the fact that people still chose to take out their anger on the soldier makes me feel so upset because the soldiers did nothing wrong they just did what they were told.

The controversy with the war didn't end when the war was over. The memorial also sparked some major controversy. The memorial is located in Washington D.C. and is made up of two long walls made of black granite. Its shape is a U but it also looks like a scar in the ground. This sparked so much controversy because people didn't like it's

minimalist design without any flag or any statues of soldiers. People thought it was a rejection of patriotism. Over time people have come to like this memorial and there has been a statue of three soldiers added there.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Vietnam Memorial when I went on a school trip to Washington D.C. I enjoyed this memorial a lot because my grandpa served there and also because of how different it is from other memorials. It includes all of the names of people who died and if their body was returned or if they are still considered missing. My favorite thing about the memorial is, you can rub the name of your loved one on a piece of paper and have that keepsake. I think it is very nice for those whose loved ones are still missing.

Veterans Day is very important and when I talked with my grandpa I asked him what it means to him. He said it means freedom. Freedom is an important word because it can mean so many things. Although I will probably never know the exact feeling of freedom he and other veterans feel, I can imagine just how nice it is to know you helped your country and now you

are honored for all the hardships you had to go through.

To me Veterans Day is a very important day and it is something many people need to learn more about. I knew so little about all of the things veterans had to go through and I already had so much respect for veterans but this added to it so much. I wish I knew more about what veterans had to go thiough Sooner so I could have this respect my whole life.