

What does an American Veteran Mean to Me?

American veterans are amazing people because they have been to hell and back, but some are blessed enough to still be here today to tell their story. American veterans to me are brave men and women who risk THEIR lives just to improve OURS the slightest bit. They make the world a better place little by little.

Millions of men and women have died and have been severely injured fighting for our country just to get *one* step closer to bigger freedom. As George Washington once said, “The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.” This quote couldn’t be more accurate. The men and women that have served this country are braver than anyone I know and they *do* get the respect they deserve.

People such as Bill Cosby, President Bush, Clint Eastwood, and Chuck Norris, people that we all know so well, have served this country. Veterans around the world that have served in the two World Wars, Vietnam, Gulf War, or any other wars, have put their blood, sweat, tears, emotions, and lives into doing what is right and beneficial for this country. In this day and age our generations are faced with *so* many trials, that we are going to have to come together and fight through this until the very end. “These are the times that try men’s souls...but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman...that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph.” These are the amazing and true words of Thomas Paine. The wars that the veterans have been through *have* been amazing triumphs because they stood up for their country’s worth.

A veteran means that we as Americans are free to walk down the streets and greet each other without the fear of being punished for it. Veterans mean that more little children in the world can play outside without being scared. So, when you see a veteran today, tomorrow, or even in twenty years, *never* forget to thank them for all they have

Kaitlin Figgins
St. Francis Community High School
P.O. Box 1110
St. Francis, KS 67756
Teacher: Mrs. Gibson
Words: 394