

## Why Is The Veteran Important?

Throughout my life I have been greatly influenced by veterans. My grandpa on my maternal side served in the United States Marines Corps during the Vietnam War. My grandfather on my fraternal side served in the Air Force for 40 years, deploying during the Gulf Wars and later in the middle east. They have taught me more than I can even mention, and I do not say this lightly but without them I do not know where I would be. Without my grandpa I would not know how to change the oil in my car, I would not know how to shoot a gun. Without my grandpa I would not know how to throw a football, or hit a baseball. I am forever grateful and indebted to them, and I know that the relatives of any other veteran would agree with me. Veterans carry something special with them that words cannot describe. They have a word of encouragement for a hard time, a story to tell to pass the time, or a special skill to fix something that nobody else can. Veterans are crucial to our lives because they provide strength and inspiration.

Veterans possess a strength that no one else has. They have gone through things that many of us cannot even imagine enduring. Oftentimes, this strength is felt throughout the entire nation. It sends a wave of hope and peace throughout the people. When tough times come, veterans and active members of the military are often the ones that you first see going out and helping people. When a hurricane hits, the news shows videos of veterans and military personnel going out in boats, rescuing people and bringing others supplies. During 9/11, there was a marine veteran watching the events unfold on television. He felt deep down that he needed to go there to help people. When he arrived, he assisted in the search of survivors and ended up finding some. His strength saved lives and strengthened the spirits of others around him. A nation can only be as strong as its citizens. Like an object being dropped into a puddle, veterans create a ripple effect of strength through the people. A house built on sand cannot withstand a storm, but a house built on the rock can withstand the storm. Likewise, a nation built on weak people cannot withstand the storm, but a nation built on the

strength of its veterans can withstand a storm. When one sees the house surviving on the rock, they cannot help but to become like that rock. Veterans offer a good outlook on the values of a country. When a citizen sees a person as strong as a veteran, they cannot help but to be influenced by the same values.

In the United States the veteran brings inspiration to the people. The veteran is an image of a strong person, like a Greek god, that others can look to for inspiration. When the Greeks would see a statue of one of their gods, they would find great pride in them. Just like the Greeks, Americans find pride when they look at their veterans. The veterans are a representation of the strongest citizens, those that produce inspiration for others to be that strong too. I personally can attest to that. I have looked up to my grandfathers, their strength and inspiration, so much that I am enlisting in the military too. I have watched what they have done and have seen the effect that they have had on other people. I now have the desire to do the same. Even though they have gone through hard things that no one should have to go through, I still see the joy that they carry for themselves and spread to others. When my grandpa shows me how to fix a broken door, or when he tells me a story about somebody who lived two hundred years ago, I don't get annoyed. It brings me great joy and builds up my bond with him. My wish for everyone is that they would have a relationship with a veteran like my grandpa because they have a zeal that nobody else has.

Veterans served their country in the military, but now they serve it with strength and inspiration. Without veterans, the United States would lack unity, inspiration, and patriotism. They have taught people things that they would never have known otherwise. Even though they may not have known, they have inspired people to take courage and stand for what they believe or even serve in the military themselves. Their strength, like a wildfire, burns brightly for the nation, building up the people around them. Veterans are an essential part of society in America and without them I do not know where I would be. Veterans, thank you for your service.