

Junior Essay 3rd Place
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Branch 631 - Amherstview
Zone G-1

Imagine

Imagine waking up everyday covered in bugs, before the sun is up to a cold, dark trench. Imagine hearing the loud gunshots and bombs everywhere not knowing if they'll hit you or not. Imagine sitting in dirty holes for hours on end prepared to fight. Imagine having to leave your family to go war not knowing when, or if you'll return home alive. Imagine watching your best friend die beside you and having to leave him behind so you can get yourself to safety.

But unless you are, or were someone who served a role in the military, you can't. You can't imagine missing all those birthdays, Christmases, anniversaries, and special events because the war went longer than you thought. You can't imagine training for months beforehand, carrying heavy backpacks uphill, and getting yelled at even if you slouched.

Which is why, whenever you hear the national anthem you stand tall, face the flag, and show respect. The men and women who fought for their country deserve more than a day to be remembered, more than a moment of silence.

If a friend, grandparent, parent, neighbor, or anyone you know who has served in the armed forces tell them how thankful you are for their sacrifices. After all they've risked their lives for you and for their country. Sometimes, after coming home from war, those who fought are traumatized from seeing all the bombs exploding and seeing friends die beside them. We are very thankful for their sacrifices.