

Veterans Day - Honoring and Celebrating Our Veterans By Karen Sue Nyquist



- 1. What is special about November the 11th?** - It is Veterans Day, the day we set aside to honor and celebrate veterans! A veteran is someone who has served in “active service and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. They are also reservists or members of the National Guard who were called to federal active duty, and those who were disabled or died from a disease or injury while in training or in the line of duty” (AI Overview).
- 2. What are the branches of the United States Armed Forces?** - The U.S. Armed Forces consist of six branches, the: Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard. We honor these and we honor the National Guard and the reservists.
- 3. Some people don't believe in war.** - It's true that God prefers that we try to live in peace. “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:18). But sometimes war is unavoidable. “To everything *there is* a season, A time for every purpose under heaven... A time of war, And a time of peace” (Ecclesiastes 3:1,8). Even Jesus said, “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen,” (Matthew 24:6 NIV). God does condone some wars, “just wars,” under certain circumstances. War should be in self-defense (Exodus 22:2), in defense of the innocent, and/or against an evil aggressor (Genesis 14).
- 4. Now, let's put ourselves into the position of a veteran. What would God say to us and about us? What could we say to Him?** - “But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors (*enemies*) will stumble and not prevail” (Jeremiah 20:11). “I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously” ... “The Lord is a warrior; the LORD is His name” (Exodus 15:1, 3 NIV). **Wow! God is a warrior too! So he fully understands veterans.**
- 5. Does God help us during a war?** - Yes! - **a)** God helps us train, gives us strength, and and delivers us during battle. “Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me” (Psalm 144:1-2 NIV). “You armed me with strength for battle; You humbled my adversaries before me” (Psalm 18:39).
b) God tells us not to be afraid and fights for us during battles. “When you go out to battle against your enemies, and see horses and chariots *and* people more numerous than you, do not be afraid of them; ... for the Lord your God *is* He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you” (Deuteronomy 20:1,4).
c) God calls us to rise up to the challenge. “Proclaim this among the nations: ‘Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up’” (Joel 3:9).
- 6. Does God use us warriors to accomplish His purposes?** - Yes! “You are My battle-ax and weapons of war” (Jeremiah 51:20). God wants to use us to stop those nations who are aggressive and want war. “Scatter the nations who delight in war” (Psalm 68:30 NIV). God wants us to do our best and finish well. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7).
- 7. What does God say about His warriors?** - God commends us! “And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said to him, ‘The Lord *is* with you, you mighty man of valor (*brave and courageous in the face of danger*)!’” (Judges 6:12). The Bible even names David's “mighty warriors” and tells of their amazing acts of bravery (2 Samuel 23:8-10, 18). Apostle Peter names warriors and praises their accomplishments. “And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies” (Hebrews 11:32-34 NIV). **Any women warriors? Yes!** The Bible tells the story of Deborah, a woman who leads the army into battle, and of Joel, who kills the enemy's commander (Judges 4:1-24).



8. So to all veterans we say:

- a. Thank you for your service and sacrifices for the United States of America and for us, your fellow Americans. You served to protect us, knowing that you could die or be injured. Some of you returned home injured, some of you were disabled. Many experienced PTSD.
- b. Thank you for your commitment and devotion that you showed to your commanders, to your comrades, and to our country. Some of you saw your colleagues die or get seriously injured, yet you continued doing your sworn duty.
- c. We honor you and your loved ones for the sacrifices you and they have made. You left your families, friends, homes, careers, schooling, and dreams for years at a time.
- d. We so appreciate all that you have contributed to make America great. You fought for and protected us from our enemies. You secured our “government of the people, by the people and for the people.”
- e. We realize we enjoy our freedoms and rights because you served and fought to defend:
 - 1) Our freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and to petition the government.
 - 2) Our right to bear arms and the right to privacy (no unwarranted government intrusion).
 - 3) Our right to due process and the right to be treated equally under the law.
- f. We will remember your legacy of selfless service that you have left behind.
- g. We’re inspired by your service and will endeavor to live worthy of your sacrifices.
- h. We will work, vote, and fight to protect the freedoms that you have fought to defend.

9. If God is a warrior, how does He fight for us? - The Bible says, God fights for His people. “You have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the Lord your God *is* He who has fought for you” (Joshua 23:3). Then Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to fight against Satan’s deceptions with truth and to die on the cross for our salvation. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Jesus conquered sin, Satan, and death’s control over us. Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13). That’s how much Jesus loves us. He calls us “friends” and died for us! “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 2:38). “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9 NIV).

10. When Jesus returns, He’ll come as a commanding general leading His army! - When John saw the vision of Jesus’ future return from heaven, he exclaimed, “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He (*Jesus*) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses ... On His robe and on His thigh He has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” (Revelation 19:11,14,16). He’s coming to defeat evil (Colossians 2:15; 1 John 3:8) and to reign on earth as king!

11. Do you want to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior? - Suggested Prayer: “Jesus, please forgive me and cleanse me from my sins. I believe that You are God’s Son and that You died to pay for my sins. I repent of my sins and want to follow You, serve You, and become more like You. Now, I confess You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Amen!”

Name _____ Date _____

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856 Cabrillo St., San Francisco, CA 94118 - Mail P.O. Box 27475, San Francisco, CA 94127
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