

He is a Man ...

(NOTE: For literary purposes, the word, man, and the masculine pronouns used in this article are intended to represent both male and female, since women, too, have bravely served, fought and died in our armed forces.)

He is a man committed to principles, who believes that right is right and wrong is wrong, and that justice will prevail if its supporters never give up.

He is a man devoted to his Creator, for in Him he finds the basis for all that is pure and good and correct in life.

He is a man who loves the United States of America, for he sees in her the dream of liberty that has flickered in the heart of mankind since time began.

He is a man who is willing to challenge the nemesis of freedom, wherever the sword of oppression is uplifted.

He is a man who has proven his courage at Bunker Hill, Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, Chateau-Thierry, Guam, Guadalcanal, Leyte, the Pusan Perimeter, Pork Chop Hill, and in the deserts of Afghanistan and Iraq.

He is a man who shuns the terror and agony of war – the inhumanity of man to man – but he is one who will not shrink from defense of the way of life he believes to be ordained of God.

He is the American fighting man, the veteran.

We pause to thank him today for giving us a priceless heritage, and for assuring a future full of promise and hope.

It is his day – Veterans Day 2005.

We owe him much.

We owe him the freedom to worship as we please.

We owe him the right to speak our minds whenever and wherever we choose.

We owe him the right of peaceful assembly and the ability to petition our government for correction of wrongs that confront us.

We owe him the right of security in our households.

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We owe him the right of a fair trial.

We owe him the right to pursue happiness.

We owe him the very survival of the republic.

We owe him a lot.

Pause in thanksgiving to God today – sometime, in some quiet place – for the American veteran. Give thanks for his bravery, his determination, his love of country, his faith. Then find a veteran to personally express your gratitude for what he has done.

For without him, there wouldn't be much to be thankful about on this Veterans Day 2005.

--Beecher Hunter