

# The American Veteran

We've come to a solemn date on our calendar, one that calls for somber reflection. This is Veterans Day 2019, and there would be no ceremony or celebration were it not for the brave men and women who have shed their blood and offered their lives to preserve our freedoms.

It is particularly appropriate for those of us who work in Life Care and Century Park to honor our veterans, for we see in some of the residents we serve the effects of their sacrifices through wounds received on the battlefield or health compromised by the harsh environment in which they fought. And despite the price they paid, their patriotic fervor still spills over in their words and actions.

It is important to remember their heroism – for they are heroes, indeed – and to thank them for their contributions to the cause of liberty. As part of our reflection on this day and its meaning, here are some quotes from famous people:

- “We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude”  
– Arthur Koestler.
- “When eating bamboo sprouts, remember the man who planted them”  
– Chinese Proverb.
- “It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you”  
– Dick Cheney.
- “This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave” – Elmer Davis.
- “I think there is one higher office than president and I would call that patriot”  
– Gary Hart.
- “When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep?” – George Canning.
- “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them” – John Fitzgerald Kennedy.
- “Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul” – Michel de Montaigne.
- “In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When the cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot” – Mark Twain.
- “But fame is theirs – and future days; On pillar'd brass shall tell their praise; Shall tell – when cold neglect is dead – ‘These for their country fought and bled’”  
– Philip Freneau.
- “How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world” – William Shakespeare.

Thank God for the American veteran.

– Beecher Hunter