



## 99 WAYS TO HONOR A VETERAN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1. Leave a message of support for our military and families at <http://facebook.com/MilitaryAvenue>
2. Take a Veteran out to eat; whether it is a fast-food chain or a fine-dining establishment. Tell them why you are bringing them out to eat.
3. Are you a knitter or crocheter? Make a scarf for the cold-winters ahead. Donate them at a local-VFW for a veteran in need or contact [Operation Gratitude](#) AT [WWW.OPGRATITUDE.COM/HOWTOHELP](http://WWW.OPGRATITUDE.COM/HOWTOHELP) to see how to donate.
4. Listen to their stories with interest. If they are a war-veteran they have seen things you will never see. **Listen and Learn.**
5. Call and Visit a local nursing home or VA Hospital. Find out what *you* can do to help. If you quilt make a blanket for a needy veteran. If you bake call and find out if you can bring in something special. Bring a book to read to a veteran "ready and willing" to listen. We all have talents that can be used.
6. Send an 'E-Card' through the [American Legion](#) to the Veterans in your life that use email.
7. Support a Military Family through Operation Homefront. Watch their website for 'current needs': <http://www.operationhomefront.net/currentneeds.aspx>
8. Military-member at the same restaurant as you? Send them a drink or pay for their dessert.
9. Is there a disabled veteran in your neighborhood? Help with the raking of his leaves or shoveling her driveway.
10. Do you have a website? Make a page dedicated to our military. Need some help finding content for it?: [For your site](#)
11. Do you bake? Make an Apple Pie or another specialty and bring it over to a neighbor-veteran. Don't forget to grab a box of ice cream to take. Now I'm hungry!
12. Own a business? Hang a sign and invite all veterans in for something free. A cup of coffee, a flower, a massage. Something you can give from your inventory to show your gratitude.
13. Do you quilt? Make a blanket for a retiring service-member. It will be a keepsake they treasure.
14. Employers: Host a special luncheon for all of your veterans. Recognize their service to your company & your country.
15. Call them. A grandparent, uncle, aunt, mother, father. Take the time to call them especially if they live far away, and find out how they are doing.
16. Send a note to your local school to urge the teachers to discuss Veterans Day. Visit [Veterans' Day Teacher Resource Guide](#) for some tips.
17. Did you know November is also Military Family Month? By thanking the family, you thank the Veteran. [Family Matters Blog: Nation Celebrates Military Family Month](#)
18. Nearly 40 percent of our veteran population is 65 or older, give a veteran your phone number and ask them to call if they need help around the house. Make a note to call them this winter to see what they need.

19. Have your children paint a picture or write a letter. Send it to your grandparent, parent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, any relative that is a Veteran.
20. Recognize the Veterans in church on the Sunday before or after Veterans Day
21. Greet them on their special day with a smile and a thank you.
22. Remember Veterans during other holidays, especially those without family. Send a Thanksgiving card, Christmas card or Valentines card, to either a Vet that you know or through a VA Hospital or VFW.
23. Teach your children a patriotic song, like America the Beautiful or the Star Spangled Banner. Instill patriotism early.
24. Employers: Give the veterans in your company a paid afternoon off on Veterans Day.
25. Offer a Military Discount year round and include veterans.
26. Teachers: Invite a Veteran to speak at your school, in a class room or to the entire school.
27. Walk a mile in their shoes instead of flipping the channel when the news comes on
28. Pray for them and their families, every day.
29. Start a Drive: Ask local businesses to participate in a drive for local veterans or deployed service-members.
30. Know a military family with a deployed member? Take them a treat on Veterans Day as a thank you and ask what you can do to make things easier
31. Do you scrapbook? Make cards through the organization "Operation Write Home" At [www.operationwritehome.org](http://www.operationwritehome.org) . They send them to the troops so that they troops can write letters home on them
32. Tell them about local businesses special offers for them on Veterans Day
33. Clean out your closets and contribute gently used household goods to [Vietnam Veterans of America www.clothingdonations.org](http://www.clothingdonations.org)
34. Do a random act of kindness for a vet or their family. Remain anonymous.
35. Say something to them on Facebook, Twitter, etc thanking them for their service
36. Open up your house on Thanksgiving or another holiday to a few veterans (active-duty or prior-service) that don't have any family in the area. Make it a holiday none of you will forget.
37. Visit Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Veterans Wall, or any of the other War Memorials on your next trip to DC
38. Call a veteran-friend and get together over dinner or a movie
39. Volunteer at a VA Medical Center
40. Help a deployed single-service member by taking care of their pet while they are gone; get involved with a [Pet Foster Care program](http://www.militaryavenue.com/articles) info. at [www.militaryavenue.com/articles](http://www.militaryavenue.com/articles)
41. Invite a few vets and friends over on Veterans Day and celebrate their service over beer, a football game, movie or game of pool in the basement.
42. Participate in the 'Thank a Veteran at Work' program from the History Channel.
43. Did a veteran in your neighborhood just come back from a deployment? Send them a card of 'Thanks'.

44. Tell your Veterans friends & family about [MilitaryAvenue.com](http://MilitaryAvenue.com). They can find businesses in their area that recognize veterans year round with Military Discounts.
45. Talk to your children about the pride we have in the Military
46. Visit your local USO. What do they need? A monetary donation or a [gift of your time](#)?
47. Fly your flag 365 days of the year. Don't forget to [lower it when appropriate](#).
48. Teachers: Have your kids write short articles of how veterans are honored around the world or what Freedom means to them. And if you know any veterans locally, propose that your kids interview them about what it's like to serve in the U.S. military.
49. Learn a fact about the particular branch of service your family member has joined
50. Participate in the '[Veterans History Project](http://www.loc.gov/vets/kits)' [www.loc.gov/vets/kits](http://www.loc.gov/vets/kits)
51. Are you a military-brat? Talk to your parents about the pride you have in their service
52. Offer to pick-up their bill (at a restaurant, bowling, ice cream stand, etc)
53. Hear the National Anthem playing? Stop what you are doing and think about the sacrifices of our US Military
54. Wear an American flag on your clothing. It's a small way to say, "I am proud of my country."
55. Introduce your children to [VA Kids](http://www4.va.gov/kids) [www4.va.gov/kids](http://www4.va.gov/kids) from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
56. Do you scrapbook? Make a Scrapbook a page or a whole book honoring a service-person. Journal about how proud you are. Add the pages to your own family's history.
57. Have a pot-luck, at church or a banquet hall, for a group of local veterans. Invite the community to participate.
58. Listen to them. Some just want to share a story from their service
59. Vote. Don't let them sacrifice for naught. Be a good citizen and do your part to protect the freedoms our service-people have fought and died for.
60. Dedicate a patriotic song in a veteran's honor on the radio.
61. Tell your children all about your Veteran-grandparents. What made them special and what they did as a Veteran. Pass on a legacy.
62. Spot a DoD sticker on a car in the parking lot? Leave a note of Thanks.
63. Pass out small flags around your neighborhood in honor of Veterans Day.
64. Support the children of deployed National Guard and Reserve soldiers. Fund raise or contribute to '[Our Military Kids](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org)' [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org)
65. Give them a big smile as you walk by, sometimes that is all that is needed.
66. If you see a veteran with an old flag on their pole leave them a new one, with a note of thanks for their service.
67. Do you have a veteran as an employee? Give them an extra time on break and a public Thank You on Veterans Day
68. Visit a veteran's grave. Even if you simply stand there for a moment of quiet reflection, you're honoring their service--and you're rededicating yourself to the freedoms we enjoy as a citizen of this country.

69. Find out which businesses in your community truly support veterans and the troops; become their customer.
70. Teachers: Teach your children about the history of Veterans Day by having them create a time line of events leading to the observance of the holiday.
71. Do you know the mom or dad of a veteran? Thank them for raising one of America's Heroes.
72. Go to your local VFW ask if you can make a donation, either by money or donation of your time. If you have a family member that serves in the armed forces you could make a donation in their honor.
73. Teachers: Take the time to write letters to veterans thanking them for their service. A great opportunity to talk about citizenship (& practice their handwriting). Call your local USO, VFW, or VA Medical Center to have them delivered to.
74. In the market to hire? Seriously consider a Veteran. <http://www.dol.gov/vets/>
75. Meditate on these words: "O Lord God of hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your almighty army to strengthen and protect the Soldiers of our country. Support them in the day of battle, and in the time of rest and training keep them safe from all evil. Endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" - From the Book of Worship for United States Forces
76. Proudly display a "I support the troops" magnet on the bumper of your car
77. Know a veteran that will be flying soon? Give them your upgrade coupon for their next flight.
78. [Order a shnazzy t-shirt or perhaps a tie](#) that shows your thankfulness. Have one sent to a veteran in your family.
79. Take the time to read [101 Ways to Say Thank you to a Military Spouse](#). Thanking the Spouse is a Thank You to the Veteran.
80. During a family reunion recognize the veterans in your family. A special toast or a big family "Thank you!"
81. Find out how you can help with a [Community Service Project](#) through your local VFW.
82. Organize a group (boys scouts, girl scouts, classroom) to write letters to veterans. Bring the letters & cards to a local nursing home to be delivered to their vets.
83. Support our troops this holiday season via 'Red Cross Holiday Mail for Heroes' program [Find out more at www.militaryavenue.com](#)
84. Read some of the veterans' stories at [DAV Charitable Service Trust www.dav.dav.org/stories](#) This is just a small sample of the sacrifices our service-members have made for us throughout the generations.
85. Is it still warm where you live? Treat a veteran to a round of golf on Veterans Day or the weekend before or after.
86. Attend a local parade or ceremony on Veterans Day
87. Make a tax-deductible donation to [www.booksforsoldiers.com/donate](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/donate) They send books and other care-packages to our deployed service-members.

88. Help a veteran with projects around his or her house. Patching a leaky roof, moving heavy rocks or rearranging the living room furniture is easier for the 20-somethings than a 60-somethings.
89. Make a lunch date: Take your veteran-colleague out for lunch.
90. Learn to say Thank You in sign-language.
91. Take pride in our history, in times of war and peace. Do you know the [history of Veterans Day](#)?
92. Ask your company to put a flag out. Offer to help with raising & lowering the flag.
93. Offer to take a veterans dog for a walk. Invite them to come along with you if they can.
94. Know a veteran's hobby? Send them a subscription to a related magazine.
95. Offer to babysit for a veteran-military family. Let the husband and wife get out together on Veterans Day or over the weekend. Perhaps it will be a great opportunity for them to reconnect after a deployment.
96. Contribute your time, talent or money to [Fisher House™ Foundation](#), "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers.
97. Get involved and send a service-person a care package. Go to <http://www.soldiersangels.org/> for a list of organizations with projects to support servicemen and servicewomen and their families.
98. Donate your airline mileage to the [Hero Miles](#) [www.fisherhouse.org/programs](http://www.fisherhouse.org/programs) program.
99. Business Owners: What kind of Veterans Day special are you having for your Veterans? [Is it from the heart](#)? If you meet a veteran on this Veteran's Day, or any day, just say thanks. They served you, and this nation, well

To truly honor our veterans love your country with passion,

and

do what you can to make it a better place!