

Community Comment Nov. 10th, 2014

By Jon Sapper
Veterans Day 2014

This is Jon Sapper for Community Comment.

Tomorrow is Veterans Day where we honor those who have served in defense of the freedoms too many of us have taken for granted. There will be speeches and there will be parades and there will be many who spend some time reflecting on loved ones who served our great country.

But, how do you say thank you to a veteran who has spent years away from their family and missed many of the special times watching their children grow? How do you say thank you to someone who has single handedly raised children wondering if this will be a tragic permanency? How do you say thank you to a veteran who has returned from the battlefield missing an arm or leg....or both, that they willingly sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy on a daily basis? How do you say thank you to a veteran who has suffered debilitating wounds and will need 24hr. care for the rest of their life? How do you say thank you to a parent who has just received a folded American flag following the playing of taps and a 21 gun salute at their child's funeral? How do you say thank you to the mother who lost all four of her sons in World War II?

I think of my father who enlisted at the beginning of World War II; served as an officer in the Pentagon and then volunteered for the jungles and hell of New Guinea, only to return and spend two years in Lettermen's General Hospital recovering from the emotional wounds of the battlefield that are just as real as a bullet tearing through flesh. How do you say thank you to him? How do you say thank you to my older sister whose father gave his life in the skies over Germany?

How do you say thank you to those currently serving in our armed forces battling a real enemy 24/7/365 that wants to destroy our way of life and is using every conceivable land, sea, air, space and cyberspace weapon to attack us?

I do smile at the protestors standing on the corner waving signs that say "Stop War!" It is ironic, indeed, that the only reason they are able to do that is because of veterans who were willing to serve, with some giving their lives to preserve the

freedom to protest. So on this Veterans Day, even the protestor needs to say thank you. Those who walk hand in hand down the streets of our cities proclaiming the evils of America also need to say thank you.

Yes, our veterans are genuine patriots. It is said no one comes back from war unchanged. All have given some and some have given all. So, how do you say thank you to our veterans? You just say....Thank you.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.