

VETERAN'S DAY: HONORING THEIR SERVICE

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On Veterans Day, we should honor the service and sacrifice of members of our Armed Forces, both past and present, as well as their families. Interestingly, Paul compares the Christ-follower to a soldier in the military, encouraging us to: *"Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him"* (2 Tim. 2:3-4 ESV). Being a good soldier requires discipline and sacrifice. That is certainly true in our Armed Forces, whom we honor on Veterans Day.

As Americans, we owe our freedom to God who gave it and to the members of the United States military who guard and protect it. The cost of maintaining our freedom is great. The fight for freedom is never over. We must fight to win it, and then we must fight to keep it.

Just survey our rich history and heritage of military service. From the Minute Men who were out-manned and out-gunned by the British in Lexington and Concord, to General Washington and his ill clad men enduring the harsh winter at Valley Forge, to the rocket's red glare over Fort McHenry in the War of 1812, to the blood soaked fields around Gettysburg where brother fought against brother, to the Doughboys in the trenches facing sniper fire and mustard gas in WWI, to the scores of Sailors who died at Pearl Harbor, to the Soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy, to the Airmen who flew bombing raids over Tokyo, to the Marines who fought on the shores of Iwo Jima, on the frigid hills of Korea, the jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of Iraq, and the rugged mountains of Afghanistan —these Patriots secured our liberty at a high price. They deserve our gratitude and respect.



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We are the land of the free because of the brave. We should honor those who serve in our military and never let their sacrifices be in vain. Because of God's blessing and because of the sacrifices of our military, no other nation enjoys such great freedoms as America. But our freedom and theirs, won at such a high price, is under fire in America today.



For example, Army Chaplain Scott Squires, a 25-year veteran, was recently forced to fight for his career simply because of his deeply held biblical beliefs. For years, Squires spoke for the Army's Strong Bonds Retreat, trying to help soldiers develop healthier relationships in stressful military life. When a same-sex couple wanted to join, he realized he couldn't, in good conscience, participate. Following Army regulations, he found another chaplain

to oversee it. But the couple filed a discrimination complaint, an official military investigation was launched, and it nearly ruined his career. Due to the efforts of First Liberty's Attorney Mike Berry, members of Congress, and our own General Boykin, Chaplain Squires was exonerated. Yet what happened to Chaplain Squires begs the question: Can Christians serve in the military and practice their faith? Apparently not without harassment if you object to same-sex behavior. Members of the Armed Forces deserve better.

ACTION STEPS:

1. **Pray** for the members of the military and their families. Thank God for those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.
2. **Learn** about the threats to Religious Liberty in the Armed Forces. Visit militaryfreedom.org and download Clear and Present Danger I, II.
3. **Urge** your elected officials to act. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Or visit FRC.org and click on Contact Officials.

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