

15 Easy Ways to Honor a Veteran

There are so many ways to honor a veteran. With a little bit of time and creativity, you can show veterans in your community that their service is appreciated and educate youth in your community that a veteran's service is something to be honored and valued. After all, freedom isn't free!

1. Look around you. Veterans are your friends, neighbors, family members, co-workers, teachers, church members, and community leaders. Find a person who has served, look him or her in the eye and simply say, "Thank you for your service."
2. Learn about the mission of Honor Flight. Log on to www.HonorFlight.org to find a hub in your area. Donate your time or funds to get veterans to Washington, D.C., to reflect at their memorials.
3. Work with your child's school to have a veteran come in and talk about his or her experiences.
4. Adopt a soldier. Get your family involved as you write to your veteran and get to know them. Pick out things together that you can send to that service man or woman.
5. See Purple Heart or Disabled Vet license plate tags on a car? Thank the driver.
6. Find a VFW post in your area and go to a meeting. Ask how you can get involved.
7. Have a parade or school function coming up? Ask how you can involve local veterans in your festivities.
8. Is your child involved in scouting activities? Ask if their pack or troop can work with a local veteran.
9. Have a video camera? Record a local veterans' tale of service. Have a tech-savvy relative or child? Ask him or her to make a multi-media presentation using photos and video of that veteran's story.
10. Visit local senior citizens centers or nursing homes and rehab facilities to find local veterans. Let them know you appreciate their service and listen to their stories.
11. Educate your kids that war is more than a video game. From excellent first-person stories to quality programming on channels like the History Channel, get kids involved in learning about history in whatever format they are interested in seeing or hearing.
12. Visit a local veterans' memorial and learn about its history. Don't have one in your area? Consider working with your local community to create one.
13. Is Memorial Day or Veterans Day coming up? Offer to drive a local veteran to the festivities in your area.
14. Educate yourself on legislation affecting veterans. Ask your representatives to vote in favor of veterans on particular issues.
15. Is there a veteran's hospital in your area? Bring a donation of coffee to the hospital, thank veterans for their service, and offer to donate your time by volunteering.