

## Honoring Our Veterans

Rep. Mike Pence

Memorial Day is that day in the spring when we remember those who did not come home. Veterans Day is the day in the fall when we remember those who did.

Today is a special day in America. Millions of citizens will gather in places large and small throughout our country to pay a debt of gratitude that we owe to the American soldier.

Across the country, at ceremonies and parades, we'll offer tributes to the heroes who answered the call and defended our freedoms here and abroad. We'll express our appreciation to some with gray hair, wearing moth-balled uniforms and to others so fresh from duty that dust remains on their boots.

While no single tribute could suffice to fully honor their sacrifice, Veterans Day at least offers a chance for our nation to stand together in honoring the men and women who have fought under the Stars and Stripes. Today we put aside all political differences and join together to pay respect to those who have made sacrifices for our freedom.

The Bible tells us, "If you owe debts pay debts. If honor then honor. If respect then respect." As we honor our veterans and celebrate their service, let us also remember that many carried home burdens we will never fully understand.

My late father was a combat veteran in Korea. He said good-bye to some of his closest friends who fell alongside of him, and he carried a special weight. As a close friend of my father once told me, "I don't think your dad ever got over the guilt of coming home."

The story of each veteran is unique, but our response to each should be the same. We must remember those who wore the uniform and who, every day of their lives thereafter, carry the burden of their sacrificial service and significant loss.

To veterans all across America and especially those in Indiana, we will remember you this Veterans Day. Thank you for your service.