



# BROOKLYN\_BORN

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## “Thank you for your service” is not enough.

Sunday, November 11, 2012

Today is Veterans Day which originally was called “Armistice Day,” the day that ended WWI which at that time was “The Great War” or “The War to End All Wars.” Sadly, that didn’t happen.

On Sundays my blog entries tend to be more introspective, possibly because I never plan an intensive workout or because I’m on my way to church and thinking ahead.

After my father’s death, I became active in the Sailors’ Association of his WWII ship. I maintain their website and have attended their last 5 reunions. They’ve come together every year since 1964 and have just voted to continue the tradition. I think each old sailor wants to be the last man standing.

My Dad and my Mom have been quoted in my blog, usually in a funny way. Today though, I want to say “thank you Dad” and thanks to all those members of the “Greatest Generation” who left their ordinary lives, went off and saved the world and then returned to live their average lives again. Thanks to their spouses who “kept the home-fires burning” as the old song went. Their sacrifice should be recognized as well.

Finally, this isn’t just about a generation disappearing daily. Millions have served since then in a variety of situations and circumstances and they deserve our thanks and support also.

I’m familiar with the charitable efforts of our military in our communities, for example the annual “Toys for Tots” campaign. However, I was surprised by the level of need for holiday support BY military families as well. I was appalled at the number of military families finding themselves in dire financial straits and the need to appeal to the community for help.

“Thank you for your service” is a comment we hear often now and that’s as it should be. However, I hope we won’t stop with easy verbal affirmation. We must support the real physical and economic needs of military families. No one who is ready to lay his or her life on the line for us should have to stress about providing Christmas presents for their families.

Edit: Once again comments have prompted some additional thoughts on my part. My husband is a Viet Nam vet also, so I vividly remember those divisive days and did not intend to open old wounds.

However, while the experiences of some returning vets are reprehensible as stated, the treatment we received from those who supported the war was in my view equally bad. I’m referring to the company and coworkers who viewed my husband’s return with disdain because they “had to give him his job back!” He was warned that the law only required them to do that for one year. I consider that being virtually “spit upon.” I do not want that to happen again to anyone regardless of the proper words being spoken.

Whether you (or your parents) were in Viet Nam, in the streets or going on with your normal lives while others served. Let’s do the right thing now.

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**WATERMELLEN**

Remembrance Day here in Canada, and I'm happy to see a huge uptick in respect and support for our veterans here.



Ensuring that veterans have the financial support and other services they require is a never-ending battle.

3137 days ago



**DAISYBELL6**

Thank you. You said some things that I would like to have said.



3137 days ago



**COCK-ROBIN**

And a salute to those who have served!



3137 days ago



**COCK-ROBIN**

And a salute to those who have served!



3137 days ago



**SAMI199**

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

John F. Kennedy



Thanks for your blog-we need to remember our vets & their families everyday & actions speak louder than words...



3137 days ago



**ONEKIDSMOM**

Amen.



When my son came back from Iraq in 2010(!) he was denied unemployment compensation because "dismissed due to being unable to come to work, serving overseas". Of course this was corrected by a call to his US representative and a letter to the employer about the law...

This sort of scenario should NOT be happening, but it still is. Hope when he gets back this time (second deployment runs through early next year) he will have better support upon the return.

Thank YOU for all you are doing for these remaining sailors. It's so much more than words.

3137 days ago



**WILSONWR**

My dad fought in WWII, Korea, and 3 times in Vietnam. I am a Vietnam Era vet that supported the mission from Guam. Like Boilham, I remember the days that you didn't wear your uniform for fear of getting spit on. I'm glad things have finally changed and vets are finally getting the respect they deserve. But you are right, more needs to be done. They have a program here in San Antonio where families take in single military members during Thanksgiving. The Air Force bases here also have an "Airman's Attic" where you can donate household items (and food) to young military couples. I only live about a mile and a half from Randolph AFB and I go to the gym there regularly. I'm very pleased with the quality and spirit of the troops today. We should never forget them!

3137 days ago



**MISCHAKEO**

I agree that our government needs to do more to support our vets when they come home. They need medical care and financial support and help getting jobs.



3137 days ago



**MJZHERE**

Not only stress about Christmas presents, but a place to live and/or necessary medical aid due to injuries sustained while protecting us! Vets experiencing these conditions live on the streets of Phoenix, and it is more than wrong.  
3137 days ago



**CD12618976**

I am a Vietnam vet myself. My father was a Korea vet. What I think about on Veterans Day are the many thousands who came home in body bags. Those that "gave all" deserve our deepest respect and undying gratitude.  
3137 days ago



**BOILHAM**

As the son of a WWII vet and a Viet Nam Era vet I thank you for this blog.  
Yes, please do what you can to support the veterans, but continue to thank them for their service as well.  
I hear this phrase often myself. It sure beats being spit upon.

3137 days ago



**EBONYSOL**

"Lest we forget" is not just about all the people who fight or die in wars, it is also about the survivors and their families after they return home. I am disgusted with governments that can find money to run the war machine but not care for their own troops once they return home.

3137 days ago



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