

# Thank a Vet

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Figure 1 <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

Model patriotism and gratitude by preparing personal messages of appreciation to give to those who have served our country.

**For**  
Young Family

## Season

Fall

## Needed

Paper, pencil or pen, crayons, envelope, postage stamp. Optional: photos of your own military service or that of a family member

## Prepare in Advance

Identify a veteran: perhaps a family member, a friend, or an acquaintance at work or church. Obtain his or her mailing address. If you don't know a veteran, contact your state's [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) and ask how to send a letter of gratitude to a veteran. You might also find information at [Operation Gratitude](#) or [USO](#).

## Activity Plan

1. Explain Veteran's Day to your children and discuss what a veteran is. Refer to the About Veteran's Day information following this Activity Plan as is helpful. If you are a veteran, or if another family member is, tell about your own service and show a few photos.
2. Identify the veteran who will receive the letter you write. Work together to compose a short letter (a paragraph is enough), expressing your gratitude for his or her service to the nation. Invite children to add patriotic drawings to the letter.
3. Insert the letter in an envelope, address it, and stamp it.
4. Pray aloud:

*O God, bless our veterans, worthy men and women who have served and protected our country. Watch over them. Watch over our country, and bless us with peace and security. Amen.*

Go together to mail the letter.

## About Veteran's Day

- Veterans Day is observed on November 11 each year. It was originally established to mark the end of World War I. Specifically, it commemorates the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the



eleventh month in 1918 when the armistice was signed. In some nations, this November 11 observance of honoring veterans is called Remembrance Day.

- Veterans Day is a time when all who have worn a military uniform in defense of our country are honored.
- Help kids understand who veterans are in age-appropriate ways. You might describe veterans as people who have served as soldiers to protect our country or soldiers who have kept our nation safe and free.
- All kinds of people have served in the military. Some veterans are very old, some are young. Veterans are found among our family members, friends, teachers, doctors, police officers, and neighbors.
- Particularly on Veteran's Day, we have an opportunity to thank these individuals for the sacrifices they made to serve as soldiers for our sake, including time away from family, missed holidays, being in harm's way.

