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Honor our Veterans on Veterans Day

Democracy reigns on land consecrated by the sacrifice of ordinary men and women who served in the U.S. armed forces. We call these special people veterans."

On a day that marks the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1919, the end of World War I, we pay tribute to those who did their duty as patriots. It's our moral duty to make them feel appreciated on Veterans Day. Here's how.

Start by thanking members of your own family who either served or are currently serving in the armed forces. Call your family members, as I will call my son, Craig, an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, and say "Thanks for serving. I'm proud of you."

Next, bid a "happy Veterans Day" to others in your community who are, or were, a part of the brave legacy of the American patriot.

Then, make plans to attend Veterans Day commemorative events in your community. The more people turn out for your Veterans Day Parade and Memorial Service, the more profound the debt of gratitude to those who served.

Finally, remember veterans in your prayers, especially those who use wheelchairs and artificial limbs as a result of battle scars that will never heal as well as those who were taken captive and whose absence remains unaccounted for.

Veterans asked very little of their country but gave everything they had. The least we can do is give them our sincerest "Thank You" for a job well done.

Our children and grand children will follow our example. They will learn to respect and appreciate a group of special Americans who are worthy

of praise but are so modest about their service that will settle for a simple "Thank You."

Veterans are common Americans of uncommon valor and devotion to duty. They are men and women willing to spill their blood if it means Generation Xer's and posterity won't be forced to spill theirs. The neighborhood baker who once served on an U.S. Navy warship. The beat cop who once kept the peace as an MP at an overseas military installation. The clergyman who issued last rites to fallen patriots and inspirational words to the battle-weary.

Veterans in your community include Legionnaires in a local American Legion post who help veterans re-adjust to civilian life, remind everyone of the priceless nature of old Glory, operate programs that instill values in all children and youth, and ensure that veterans recovering in the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital know that the community-at-large cares about them. My comrades in American Legion posts in your area could use a few more good men and women, eligible veterans, to strengthen our community service and elevate our clout in Washington.

When you think about it, there are perhaps thousands of veteran in your community - family, friends, acquaintances and other readers of this newspaper-- who deserve a "Thank You" on this special day. If you appreciate the freedom we, as Americans, enjoy today, then you realize why it's important to honor those who sacrificed for that freedom.

That's what Veterans Day is all about.

by Harold L. "Butch" Miller



Ruth Revels of Greensboro (hands raised) and others enjoy the festivities at the Pow wow held the weekend at the NC Indian Cultural Center. The Lumbee Tribe's Pow Wow is sponsored twice a year by Lumbee Regional Development Association.



Rick Barton at the pow wow in regalia, mixing tradition and modern technology.



Shown in front of the West Eagle Job Net booth are Rhonda Shane and Bob Winfree.



Among the other queens at the pow wow was the reigning Miss Indian World April Whitmore.



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Ray Littleturtle served as Master of Ceremonies at the Pow Wow.



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The Kendron B. Locklear Liver Transplant Fund Golf Tournament Committee thanks the players as well as the following sponsors for the success of the Tournament:

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