

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Monthly Series

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Do You Have What It Takes to Celebrate two Great Holidays?

The month of November celebrates Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.

First of all, Veterans Day honors our veterans and is a reminder of the sacrifice that countless veterans made to serve our country.

As you know, their sacrifice came at a very high cost which included distant family relationships, losing out on their children's daily growth and accomplishments as well as other family celebrations. This does not include dealing daily with their individual physical and mental challenges.

I imagine the veteran's bravery was tested long after their return to their families and communities. I imagine our Veterans found themselves challenged daily as they no longer saw life in a light hearted way, but in a more serious light from the constant reminders of difficult tasks and assignments which were required in order to maintain their military status, protect their country, and finally return home to loved ones.

I imagine our veterans thinking "you have no idea what real life challenges are; you have no idea of the real meaning of fear, stress, and pain".

I imagine, if we were given one day to walk in the shoes of a veteran that our appreciation for family and the small basic things in life would greatly increase.

I had the privilege of listening to a few family experiences. I feel certain that I received the PG version to spare me the details that would surely bring on unbelievable feelings of sadness, anger, appreciation, and much more.

Next, Thanksgiving is a day of giving as well as a day of thanks.

I am excited because this is where we can all play an important part! How you ask? Let me share an important reminder.

I imagine there are many lonely veterans who would appreciate a warm smile as well as a hot meal on Thanksgiving Day.

This can easily be done by inviting a friend or family member to dinner or presenting them with a gift card to a local restaurant. You can easily go purchase this gift card at any grocery or supply store. I believe it would make someone's day to receive such a gift.

Finally, when you see a worn out veteran eating and enjoying their meal, stop to give them your

best smile or greeting, **regardless** of their appearance. Keep in mind, this person is someone's parent, someone's adult child, someone's sibling ,someone's close relation, and someone who **served** so you could live in peace.

In closing, I challenge you this month to show your appreciation for both holidays through your thanks and through your giving. Purchase a gift card today and present it to someone in need of a warm meal.

I challenge you to make each and every day a great celebration for Veteran's as well as a day of Thanksgiving.

Have a great month of change!

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