

What is a Veteran



Gulf

He is a cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the bar room loud-mouth, dumber than a hammer, whose out grown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by the exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

He or she is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another, or didn't come back at all.



Korea

He is the boot camp drill instructor who has never seen combat, but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no account rednecks and gang members into soldiers and sailors and teaching them to watch each other's back.

He is a parade riding, hat wearing person who pins on their ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career Quartermaster who watches the medals and ribbons pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in the Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battle-



Vietnam

field or in the ocean's sunless deeps.

He is that old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket, hands palsied and aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp, and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being. A person who offered some of his life's most vital years in service to his Country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a Soldier and a Savior and a Sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, great-



POW

est Nation ever known.

They come in all shapes, ages, genders, colors, religions, education and political beliefs, but they all share one common bond. They displayed that outstanding unselfish call to duty and answered when their Country called.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our Country, just stop and say "Thank You." That's all most of them need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot to that person we know as a Veteran.



WW I



Civil



WW II



Revolutionary

It's not the **Price** you pay to be a Legionnaire but the **Price** you paid to be **eligible**

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