

Throughout the First District, I often pass memorials and monuments that recognize long ago struggles where American lives were lost as our brave soldiers, airmen, marines, and sailors fought for their country. Yet there is no greater testament to the spirit and resilience of this nation than the example set by those Americans who have sacrificed so much in defense of our freedoms. As we commemorate Veterans Day on November 11, I hope that we all keep in mind the sacrifices of our fellow citizens whose selfless labors have preserved the fabric of our freedom.

Some enlisted, some volunteered, and some were drafted. Many fought in Europe, others in Vietnam, and still more in the Middle East. They are mothers and fathers; brothers and sisters; and sons and daughters. Small business owners and federal employees. Soccer coaches, camp counselors, and college students too. Our nation's veterans can be found in every corner of our society, and each of them deserves our utmost admiration and respect. For over two hundred years, our freedom has been sustained by the brave deeds of these selfless men and women who return from their missions quietly and humbly. Our rights and freedoms as Americans are precious, and we must never forget the service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families in preserving our freedoms. The Commonwealth of Virginia is a place rich with military tradition, and I know that we are proud of the many Virginians who have served or who are currently serving today. I am pleased that our communities have chosen to recognize these conflicts in our country's history with monuments. It seems like honoring them with monuments isn't really enough. Veterans' Day is a small way we can continue to honor our heroes. They deserve our thanks each and every day. As I attend events commemorating Veterans' Day in the First District this week, I am humbled to be a part of these ceremonies honoring those dedicated and selfless individuals whose efforts have kept us all safe. I encourage you to take the time to thank a veteran, visit a memorial, or to simply reflect upon these honorable individuals.

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