

The Monongahela Veterans Council



American Legion



Veterans of Foreign Wars



LEATHERNECKS



SHIPMATES

Veterans Day 11NOV15
"Thank You for Your Service"

Good Morning! It's me: "The Guy From Finleyville". Here to say a few words from the bottom of my heart: Veterans: "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!"

Honored Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen and especially Brother and Sister Veterans:

It is my distinct privilege to be with you this morning. Honestly, I feel honored just to be able to associate with you and your families here in the Mon Valley on this special day. Our little corner of the U.S.A. has the highest percentage of Veterans anywhere! This whole valley is full of Patriotic Americans and none as special as our Veterans and their families!

Many of you people went into harm's way during war time. All of you served with pride wherever needed. You did not try to avoid your duty. You answered your country's call. Whether a Hot War/ Cold War/ "Police Action" or Peace Keeping: it does not matter. You stood ready to do the work that others could not or would not do! Be Proud. This Day is for You.

Thank you for your Service!

- Looking back a hundred years, in WW I, people like you saved Europe from self-destruction.....**Thank You for Your Service!**
- In WW II, you of the greatest generation saved the whole world from slavery under a murderous dictatorship.....**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**
- In Korea, you served and suffered through the "Forgotten War". Under extreme conditions, with little home front support, you Defenders of Freedom held back Communism..... **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**
- Then came Viet Nam, another misunderstood conflict. Some ran away. You did not. You did what you had to do. Then you came back to the world and carried on without complaint. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**
- Desert Storm; Iraqi Freedom; Afghanistan Vets: You struck a blow for liberty in a very dangerous place. Your Countrymen appreciate you and honor your service, too.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Were you in Combat Operations? Were you on land, at sea; in the air? Were you in a support role; Active Military; Reserve Component? However you served, YOU DID YOUR JOB. You were and ARE an important part of the valiant effort to make the world a better place. You still stand with your comrades in arms in that heroic struggle!

Today, our country is tangled up in some of the worst places on the planet! In Iraq, Afghanistan, and much of the Middle East, our best and brightest struggle with Peace Keeping; "Nation Building"; and repeated deployments. Their families bravely carry on without them. The mission is unclear; the end-state uncertain. All those men and women need our prayers and support now more than ever! As we stand here today, Pa. National Guardsmen are deployed in another "hot spot" we don't even hear about anymore. They are on a continuing interdiction that began over 15 years ago and is still unresolved! We need to thank them for their service, as well.

Veterans, our mission goes on. Our work is not done. Other vets need our help, so we must keep up the effort. Participate in the work of your VFW, American Legion or other Veterans' Organization. Not a veteran? Join the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion or another parallel organization. Join up, pitch in! Help wherever and whenever you can. There are many young wounded warriors who need to know we care; and many government leaders who need to hear our voices!

You veterans can be justly proud of your service to your country. It is now our job to complete the task; to carry the standard handed to us by our Veteran fore-bearers. We must continue to be involved, strong, solid Americans all. We must mentor our youth; instruct our government leaders; and support our military.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Liberty must prevail. We have no other Choice!

God Bless America! Thank God for our Veterans!