

## My Veteran's Day Message

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By Thomas R. Cuba

I can only speak for myself, but on this Veteran's Day as people said to me, "Thank you for your service," the thought that occurred to me was to say, "Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve." Again, speaking only for myself, the Navy brought out in me such traits that I had admired in my father, grandfather, and uncles (two of them) who served. These traits may have lain dormant for years or forever, had it not been for the demands of the service. I'm speaking of traits like courage, discipline, self-discipline, respect, self-respect, leadership, followership, confidence in others and confidence in myself. Most of all, however, after served only a short time, I understood what the word 'honor' meant. I understood that duty is not the same as a job. Teamwork, as expressed by those in uniform, makes the kind of teamwork we see in sports look like mob-work. I understood that 'Country' when used referring to our nation, is not a place. It is a set of values and beliefs that are shared among our citizens. So, speaking solely for myself, I thank the nation for allowing me to spend a portion of my life in her service.