

I am not a Veteran

I am not a Veteran in that I have never served in the United States Military. I am, however, a veteran of the atrocities against my United States. I have lived through the years of the Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan. My father was a World War II Veteran. Even though he never saw combat, I am still grateful to this day of his service to our country.

I am not a Veteran. It is because of the Veterans of the United States Military that I have the right to compose this type of article. I have the freedom to display my flag proudly at any time. I have the right to free speech, religious freedom, right to bear arms, and many other rights just because someone whom I didn't particularly know fought and died for these rights. I am not a Veteran. But, because the Constitution of these United States requires that all men be treated equally, I have the right to stand beside and support these Veterans.

I am not a Veteran. I do believe that God is the creator of all things. Our country was founded on the premise of "In God We Trust". With these words, we must put our faith in our one and only God to watch over and protect all of us, Veterans and citizens alike. We are all equal in the eyes of God. He does not differentiate a Veteran from any other of his children. We are a truly blessed nation that God allows us to have these rights.

This price of freedom for our nation was paid by the personal sacrifice of our military personnel. They fought and died for our rights. This sacrifice is displayed and memorialized forever in the Wichita Veterans Park at 2nd and Greenway. This park is for honoring those who served this great country and died for this great country. It is hallowed ground for our fallen comrades. This park is never to be used to memorialize another nation's strife's. These nations have fought their own battles. Some have been won and many have been lost. While their fight might have just, they have no right to be memorialized at this site honoring our fallen that have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

While a lot of our conflicts/wars have been the result of the atrocities of others against certain nations and the United States has provided support of troops to these conflicts/wars, it by no means gives these nations the right to memorialize their country's fallen within our Veteran's Memorial Park.

If the City of Wichita decides to allow the building of the South Vietnamese memorial within this park, where does it stop? Do we allow Somalia residents to come to our city to build a memorial for their fallen in our park? Do we memorialize the genocide of nations within our own Veteran's Park? Americans need to stand up and voice their concerns to our city leaders. This is about rights and honor. Not about political correctness. The South Vietnamese can have their memorial anywhere in the city except for our sacred Veteran's Park. The South Vietnamese Memorial will be supported by the United States Veterans, including all citizens, and will be an honor to their culture.

I am not a Veteran. But, I am a veteran of the freedoms and rights of my United States. I will proudly stand beside each and every Veteran of our military. They deserve the honor, respect and outright thanks from each and every citizen of this great country for their sacrifices. Even though one may have served and was never wounded or even killed in action, they have paid the sacrifice. They serve proudly. They paid a sacrifice to be away from family and friends. Paid a sacrifice to be stationed anywhere in the world without even thinking twice about it.

I am not a Veteran. I am a proud American.

Mike Porter
Park City, KS