A Salute to our Veterans

Friday, November 11th is 97th celebration of Veterans Day in the United States of America. This is a day for us to honor all men and women, both living and dead, that served or serves in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Monroe City Council and I encourage all citizens of Monroe to take a moment to remember, honor and salute all of these outstanding men and women. Dating back to the American Revolution, hundreds of thousands have paid the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives so that we can enjoy the many freedoms that we have today. We know that our country is not perfect, but it is still the best nation in the world. We enjoy our civil rights and liberties thanks to those who were willing to fight for and protect the democracy upon which our country stands.

Many of our family members, friends, neighbors, teachers and church members are veterans. Some are with us today. Some never returned home from active duty. It does not matter if their military service was short or lengthy. What matters is that they served our country. There is a saying that goes something like this…*"we give people their flowers while they are still alive to see, smell and appreciate them!"* We should give flowers, or honor, to our living veterans now. Do what you can to show your love, respect and appreciation for them and what they mean to our country. We should also do our best to educate our children that the sacrifice of our veterans is so important to the past, present, and future of our country.

Happy Veterans Day to all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces! Freedom is not free. We know this, because you have paid the cost. Together, we are making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!