



SERVING OUR VETERANS

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In past columns, I have occasionally mentioned total military deaths during a particular war. But, have you ever thought about what are the total number of U.S. military deaths, and the number of wounded, from all our conflicts? I looked up these statistics and found the following numbers. These numbers only include major wars beginning with the founding of our country up until the present time.

When one thinks about these numbers, it is almost staggering, considering our nation has only been around for about 242 years.

Ten of our U.S. states have a total population less than the total number of deaths alone. The numbers listed do not even include the more minor conflicts. So, the totals are even higher than shown. With the ongoing war on terrorism, these totals continue to climb. It again makes us realize what the cost has been for us to have the freedoms and liberties we enjoy as Americans today. These numbers do not even take into consideration the impact and sorrow suffered by the families of these casualties. The majority of these numbers occurred on foreign soil as

these soldiers tried to protect democracy around the world or fought for those who could not defend or protect themselves. The sacrifice has been great. Most of all, we need to remember these numbers are not just statistics. Each individual number is a human life. They are our sons, our daughters, our fathers, our mothers, and the list of family connections goes on and on. As U.S. citizens, we should feel they are all our brothers and sisters. Without their sacrifice, our country would not be what it is today. We would not be the greatest country on this earth. Let us often reflect on these numbers and truly appreciate what has been done by these, for us and our country. Let us resolve to live each day with thankful hearts and strive to give all our living veterans the very best care and honor they deserve.

Casualties of war - by the numbers

<u>WAR</u>	<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>WOUNDED</u>
Revolutionary War	25,000	25,000
War of 1812	15,000	4,505
Mexican American War	13,283	4,152
Civil War	750,000	281,881 (Union only)
Spanish American War	2,446	1,622
Philippine American War	4,196	2,930
World War I	116,516	204,002
World War II	405,399	670,846
Korean War	54,246	92,134
Viet Nam War	58,209	153,303
Iraq/Afghanistan	7,222	50,897
TOTAL	1,451,517	1,491,272