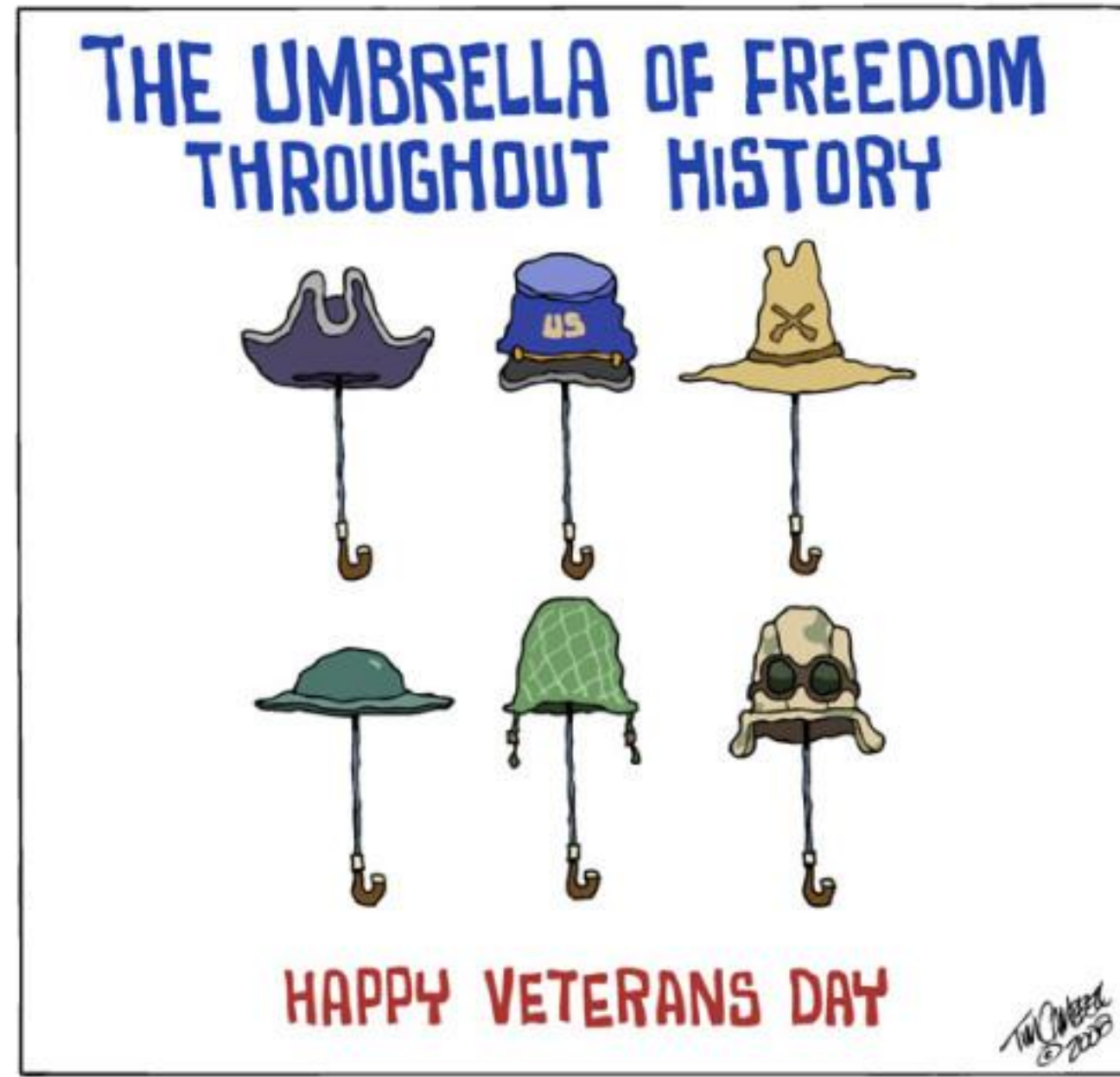


How many of you have family members who have served in the military?



Veterans' Day Facts

- ▶ Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary marking the end of World War I.
- ▶ Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938.
- ▶ President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day as a way to honor those who served in all American wars.
- ▶ The day honors military veterans with parades and speeches across the nation.
- ▶ A national ceremony takes place at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.



U.S. Census Bureau Statistics

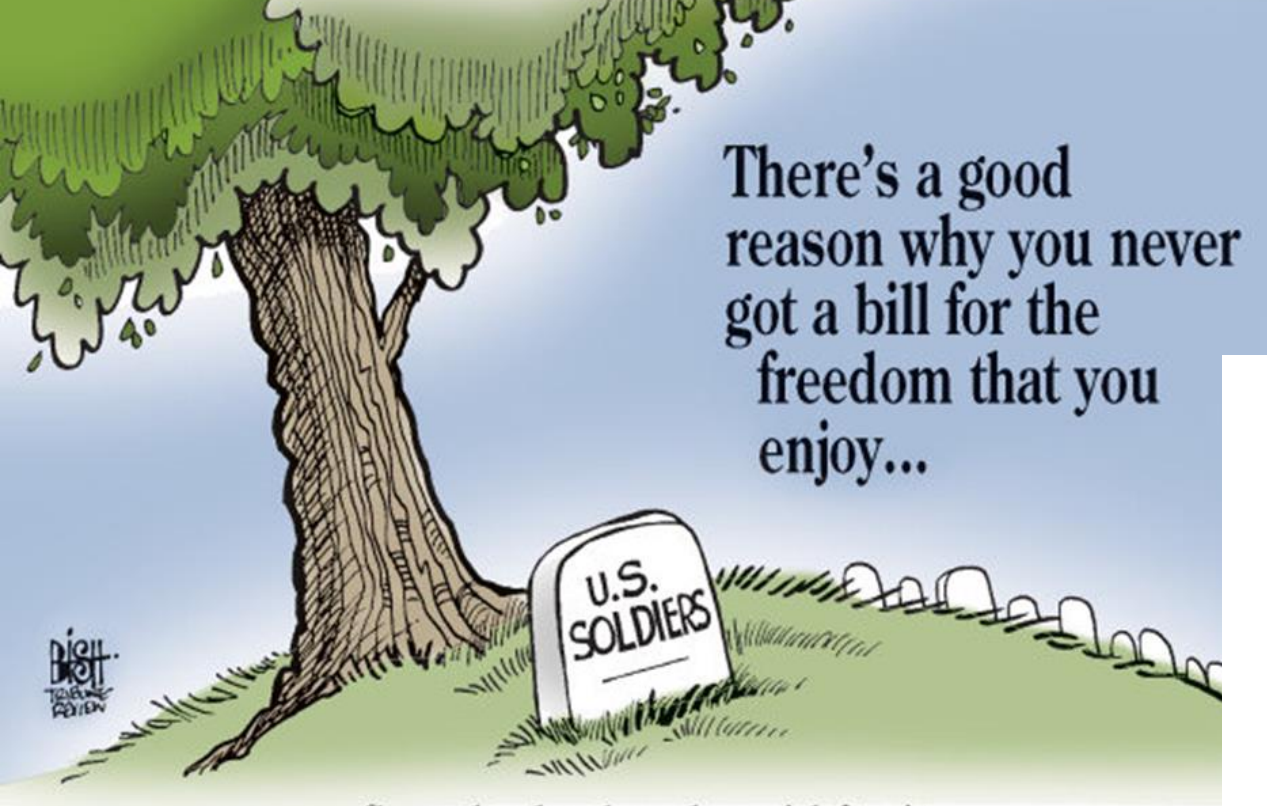
▶ Veteran Chart

- ▶ 19.6 million military veterans
- ▶ 1.6 million female veterans
- ▶ 79.3% = non-Hispanic white; 11.3% = black; 6.0% = Hispanic; 1.4% = Asian; 0.7% = American Indian or Alaska Native; 0.2% = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; 1.2% = Other
- ▶ 9.3 million veterans = 65 years and older in 2013
- ▶ 1.6 million veterans = younger than 35.

Source: 2013 American Community Survey

http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/13_1YR/B21001





There's a good reason why you never got a bill for the freedom that you enjoy...

Somebody already paid for it

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S MASSIVE DEBT...



Extra credit:

- ▶ Write a thank you letter to a veteran (instructions on the following slide)

OR

- ▶ Write a complaint letter to the VA:

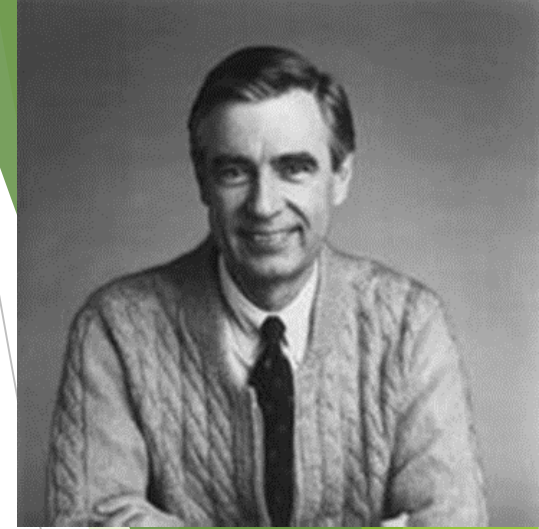
The Honorable Robert McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington DC 20420

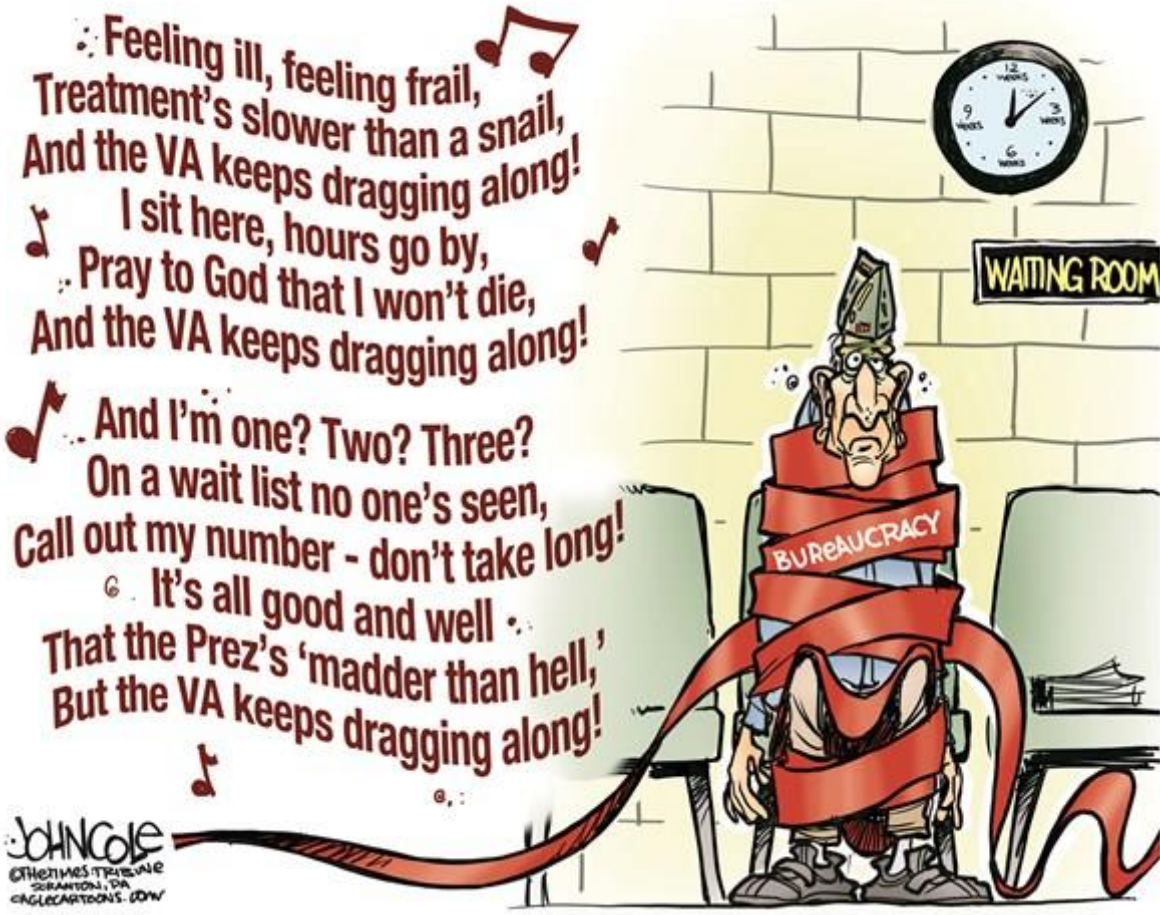
- ▶ Make sure your letter is written according to the 7-section template of the Declaration of Independence.



“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”
Mr. Rogers

VA Hospitals

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlRLWV9v5G4>



Now that you are **AWARE** of these problems, what **ASTUTE** questions do you have for President Obama? Secretary McDonald?



7-Section Complaint Letter

- ▶ Purpose for writing
- ▶ Reasons reader should take your complaint seriously
- ▶ Specific complaints
- ▶ Previous attempts to solve the problem
- ▶ Specific action steps you want the reader to take
- ▶ Pledge to follow through if reader doesn't take the action steps
- ▶ Signature



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Interview with General Volesky

► <http://abcnews.go.com/ThisWeek/video/service-sacrifice-back-us-involvement-iraq-major-general-39128068>



How to Write a thank you letter:

State your purpose:

Formal: "I am writing to thank you for. . ."

Informal: "Thanks so much for . . ."

(This can be a tangible gift, like a scholarship or birthday present, or an intangible gift, like service, support, friendship, freedom, kindness, help, advice, etc).

2. Describe specifically what you like best about the gift.

3. Explain very specifically how you will use/benefit from the gift (now and/or in the future).

4. Express your sincere appreciation for something about the person who gave the gift such as their generosity, sacrifice, kindness, understanding, generosity, etc.

5. Use an appropriate closing: With thanks, With sincere appreciation, Fondly, Your friend, etc.

Clips from “Heroes on the Hill”

- ▶ *Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming
bright.
From afar drawing nigh -- Falls the
night.*
- ▶ *Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from
the sky;
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*
- ▶ *Then good night, peaceful night,
Till the light of the dawn shineth
bright;
God is near, do not fear -- Friend,
good night.*

▶ Taps

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bfe4TxvUOiw>

