country free. Great soldiers come in mind: General George C. Marshall, General Douglas MacArthur, General Douglas MacArthur, General Ira Eaker, General H.H. Arnold, the last five have not lost important vet. John Joseph Kunkes, my grandfather, fought in Korea. He was missing from action from his platoon for one month. He was on his own staying alive on skills taught to him by the U.S. Army.

Thinking about my grandfather’s adventures makes me remember every veteran has their tale to tell. It would be to our best interest to seek out his story and appreciate his commitments to his country and his branch of service.

To some, Veterans Day is a day off of school or work. But World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam fighters make me shiver. They fought in those wars and risked their lives that makes them so great.

On Veterans Day, remember and pray for courageous vets and honor them with the respect and dignity they deserve. To all past, present, and future veteran, remember we are all behind you.

**VETERANS DAY**
(By Julian Olly, Nathan Hale Middle School)

Many brave men and women have given their lives in wartime for our country. One that was not so far in the past was the Vietnam War. The veterans of this war must be especially honored for their valor and loyalty at the most crucial time in American History.

This war was difficult for Americans because many of them disagreed with the war. In 1973, the United States government had agreed to stop fighting in Vietnam. When many soldiers returned from the hardships during their friends or relatives died in battle, many Americans did not support them and many soldiers felt very unappreciated. Veterans are now beginning to be recognized by other foreign war heroes. Veterans gather at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC to place gifts and stand quiet vigil at the names of their friends and relatives who fell in the Vietnam War. Families have lost sons and/or daughters in wars. Their thoughts and many others are toward peace and the avoidance of future wars.

Today, let us give thanks to these Vietnam veterans and all the brave men and women who fought for America. These soldiers are our heroes. They gave their lives for us and for the cause of freedom. May each and everyone be honored for eternity.

**WHAT VETERANS DAY MEANS TO ME**
(By Amanda Lally, Grade 7, St. Jane de Chantal Elementary School)

Veterans Day is a very important holiday in our country. It honors all of those who are living and dead—who served with the US armed forces in times of war. We owe so much to those brave men and women who fought for our freedom and protected our country.

I am very proud to have family members who have served for our country. My great-grandfather fought in World War II. He was captured by the enemy and became a prisoner of war, but he survived and came home. My great-grandfather in the Korean Conflict. They were both proud to serve our country.

Without all of these brave men and women, where would our country be? They put their life on the line for all of us. We should not only honor our veterans on this commemorative day, but every day, because without those armed forces there would be no peace or freedom.

To all of the people who have served for our country, you make me feel proud to be an American.

**WHAT VETERANS DAY MEANS TO ME**
(By Jennifer Gename, Grade 8, St. Jane de Chantal Elementary School)

In my opinion, I think it is only fair to have a holiday commemorating the men who risked their lives for the ideals and principles of our country. They worked hard to uphold our nation’s belief in freedom, and they deserve to have a day of recognition.

Although Veterans Day is probably not one of the most publicly mentioned holidays, it has great meaning towards my family and me. My grandfather served in World War II, and thankfully survived unharmed. He, and all the other men, worked day and night in the midst of shootings, killings, and pain. They didn’t know if they would ever get through a day, let alone survive until the end of the war. If this sort of endurance doesn’t deserve a holiday, then I don’t know what does. These men did so much for our country, so that someone would be able to lead happy, safe lives.

So to me, Veterans Day is a very important holiday, because it helps people realize what others went through to help the nation.

**VETERANS DAY**
(By William Matuszak, St. Rene Goupil Elementary School)

Veterans Day is a time to remember and honor men and women who have served in the Armed Forces. This holiday is celebrated on November 11.

Veterans Day is important to me for many reasons. Both my grandfathers have served in a war. One served in World War II and the other in the Korean Conflict. It is not only important to me, but to everyone, because many families have served in armies and have fought for their country in war. Veterans Day can also show people between countries, because war is over and we can celebrate that also.

Veterans Day is a very important day to all. Men and women from all over the world have fought for their countries in many different ways, and we honor them on this very special day. We celebrate their accomplishments and sacrifices. Veterans Day is a great way to honor all who have died and all who are still living that have served their nation in the military. Let us keep all of the men and women who are presently serving in our military that God will keep them out of harm’s way.

Mr. Speaker. I wish all of these fine authors the best of luck in their future studies.

**COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD PROTECTION ACT**

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. Speaker, on October 25, JOHN DUNCAN of Tennessee and I introduced H.R. 3142, the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. Madison Avenue and the credit card companies have convinced our college students that getting a credit card is necessary for a fun college experience. But upon graduation, many of these young people find themselves buried in debt. Just recently, the House recognized the need to educate young people on this issue by passing a bill to encourage high schools to teach financial literacy, including credit education. College by college, state by state, this issue is being recognized as a serious problem that needs to be addressed.

A recent report found that one-fifth of the Nation’s college students are carrying credit card debts of more than $10,000. Seventy percent of undergraduates at 4-year colleges possess at least one credit card. One 19-year-old sophomore student in the Rochester, NY area who had no income recently attempted to declare bankruptcy; he had accumulated a stack of credit cards and owed the credit card companies $23,000! In Knoxville, TN, one college student ran up $9,000 in credit card debt in just 2 years. Students are snowballing into debt through the extension of unaffordable credit lines, peer pressure to spend, and financial naivety. Low minimum monthly payments and routine credit limits hikes add to the seductiveness of plastic.

Even though many students with credit cards have no income to pay the bills, credit card companies are aggressively marketing their cards to college students. Credit card companies set up tables during orientation week and outside college lunchrooms, advertising free gifts such as t-shirts and mugs, to sign up as many students as possible. Most of the time, all that is required is a student identification card. For many students, they experience problems when they cannot afford to make payments on their credit cards, which ruins their credit ratings before they have even entered the workforce. While many college students are adults, responsible for the debt they charge, the credit card industry’s policy of extending high lines of credit to unemployed or underemployed students needs to be examined.

This bipartisan legislation would compel credit card companies to determine before approving a card whether any prospective customer who is a traditionally aged full-time student, can afford to pay off the balance. This bill would limit credit lines to 20 percent of a student’s annual income without a cosigner. Students could also receive a starter credit card with a lower credit limit, allowing increases over time if prompt payments have been made. Another provision would eliminate the fine print in credit card agreements and solicitations, where fees and penalties are hidden. This print would have to be enlarged. Finally, parents would have to agree in writing to increases in the credit limit of cards which they have cosigned.