

Worksheet: Recognizing Those Who Serve

"It's really hard for me to ignore those young guys who are still out there in the sand; it's really...it's close to my heart."

– Ehren Tool

Ehren Tool claims that he is "not an instructor," but he teaches through his cups. You will also teach through the cup you create, perhaps about a veteran or someone currently serving in the military; perhaps about someone who has served in another important way to keep our nation safe. Consider frontline workers in hospitals, first responders, grocery workers, and so many others across our nation who have helped confront the devastating effects of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, pandemic. In preparation for that, you have two areas to research:

1. What is happening?

- Find out about any current U.S. military involvements. In other words, are U.S. soldiers fighting anywhere right now, or recently? Where, and for how long? What happened recently or is happening now?

- Find out about the COVID pandemic or other current event in which ordinary people are doing extraordinary things in the service of others.

2. Who are the people who serve?

- Find local people who are veterans or who are serving in the military. For example, some teachers, staff, parents, or administrators may be in the National Guard or may have served in the past. Collect their information such as name, rank, and time of service, any stories they share, and a photo if you can get one.

- Find local people who are on the front lines against the pandemic or in other ways serving the people. Here, too, your teachers or family members might be able to assist you in identifying individuals who serve in this way. Collect information and stories.



Worksheet: Recognizing Those Who Serve (continued)

Where to look: There are several stories in addition to Ehren Tool's in the SERVICE episode that feature other veterans. Local newspapers, online news sources, news magazines, local veterans' organizations, and nearby memorials dedicated to different wars are other sources for those who have served in the military. Ask family and neighbors if there are veterans in their family. Similarly, you will find stories about frontline heroes and COVID-19 workers through a search for newspaper and online news articles.

- Take notes. Add information to a bulletin board for the class to share.

- What surprises you? What have you learned? What news do you want to discuss? Whose story do you want to share?

Create a cup to honor someone who serves. Whether you create a cup out of clay, paper, or another material, create one that will help start a conversation with someone about the individual you have chosen to honor. What kinds of symbols will you include in your cup design to represent your chosen person who serves?

