



# A BREATH OF *Fresh Air* WITH TAPS OUTDOORS

Changing Landscapes • November 2020

## NOVEMBER THEME: CHANGING LANDSCAPES

Week 2: November 11-16

Activity: Honoring What Doesn't Change – Our Love

In our sixth episode of [A Breath of Fresh Air](#) with TAPS Outdoors, we are using tools from our month one learnings on grounding techniques in [Getting & Staying Grounded](#) as a way to navigate the changing landscapes around us.



Monument in Vidor, Texas.

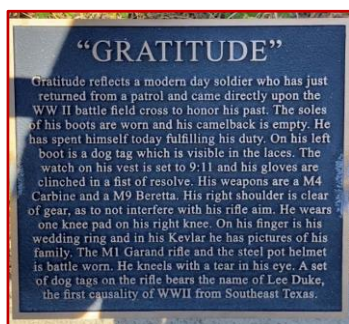
This week in [Changing Landscapes](#) is all about connecting to our veterans and extended military family. This is what doesn't change. Our connection to one another and our love of country and service.

As survivors, we know change all too well. We know that navigating the multitude of changes around us can be difficult, but what continues to

ground us as a family is the understanding that Love Lives On and that this Love is grounding in our lives.

This week our activity is to *Honor What Doesn't Change* by honoring our veterans and visiting monuments to connect with our love of country and service.

We've provided a few ways you can get



Monument in Vidor, Texas.

**“GRATITUDE”**  
Gratitude reflects a modern day soldier who has just returned from a patrol and came directly upon the WW II battle field cross to honor his past. The soles of his boots are worn and his camelback is empty. He has spent himself today fulfilling his duty. On his left boot is a dog tag which is visible in the laces. The watch on his vest is set to 9:11 and his gloves are clinched in a fist of resolve. His weapons are a M4 Carbine and a M9 Beretta. His right shoulder is clear of gear, as to not interfere with his rifle aim. He wears one knee pad on his right knee. On his finger is his wedding ring and in his Kevlar he has pictures of his family. The M1 Garand rifle and the steel pot helmet is battle worn. He kneels with a tear in his eye. A set of dog tags on the rifle bears the name of Lee Duke, the first casualty of WWII from Southeast Texas.

grounded in *your love of what doesn't change*, by honoring our veterans on Veterans Day, exploring outdoor veterans monuments and getting connected with local veterans in your community through outdoor experiences.

***Honor What Doesn't Change (Our Love) by Visiting Local Veterans Monuments or Memorials:***

In this week's episode Rachel and Tony both visited a variety of veterans' monuments and memorials from tanks, ships and aircrafts to monuments dedicated to service members in small communities in rural areas.

As you visit outdoor monuments and memorials in your community here are a few questions to ponder:

- What are the stories of these monuments?
- Who erected them and why?
- What are the physical monuments and what did they choose this outdoor location?
- What is the connection to this physical space?
- What indigenous land is this on and how are the tribes in the area honoring their veterans?
- Who are the veterans behind these names etched in stone?
- What does service of country mean to me?
- What can I do to continue honoring the love of country and service these veterans and monuments represent?

When you're ready, remember to share your experience with us by taking a photo or video and sharing it using **#TAPSOutdoors** or email us at [expeditions@taps.org](mailto:expeditions@taps.org)!

*Learn More & Find Resources from TAPS*

- [Learn More about FREE ACCESS to our nation's National Parks](#) for Veterans and surviving families.
- Read veterans' stories and learn about unique events happening in [The TAPS Daily](#), our webpage updated daily with curated news and resources relevant to military, veterans and their families.

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