



Veterans’ Day

Wednesday, November 11, 2015



World War II U.S. Army veteran Bob Crouse - Listens to a mid-morning Bible study at Tiffany Heights Care Center. Bob visits his wife of 73 years, Jeane, at Tiffany Heights every day, eating his meals and spending the day with her, before returning home each evening.

Bob Crouse recounts his shortened stint in the U.S. Army

Bob Crouse, a 1942 graduate of Oregon (MO) High School, was drafted into the U.S. Army after graduation, during the height of World War II. A trip to Fort Leavenworth, KS, for a mandatory physical was the closest Bob made it in the Army that year. He was given 4-F status because of hearing loss. He returned to his wife of a few months, Jeane Foster Crouse.

Bob was called back to Fort Leavenworth in 1943 and 1944, each time being sent home with the same 4-F status. In 1945, Fort Leavenworth beckoned Bob back for a fourth physical. At this time, Bob and his brother, Paul, were constructing the building that would soon become Crouse Brothers Motors in Mound City. Bob told Paul he would be back soon, but the U.S. Army was going to take one more look at him. At Fort Leavenworth, Bob went through the motions of the physical and waited for his 4-F ranking. Much to his shock, the Army accepted him for active duty.

Bob was sent to Camp Joseph T. Robinson in Little Rock, AR, for basic training. Soon after his arrival at camp, the U.S. Army

announced that there would be no more drafting of married men. The timing was too late for Bob and many other new draftees.

The cold, wet weather in late fall in Arkansas was miserable for the boys in boot camp; but, Bob’s misery was made much worse because the cold weather brought back childhood ear problems. Bob’s untreated ear infections resulted in complete deafness with irreparable damage. Still participating in basic training, Bob’s teammates helped him through obstacle courses and fire fight maneuvers. Bob could not hear the guns and was pushed down and pulled up by his buddies to avoid the flying bullets, regardless if the bullets were real or not.

Finally, Bob was sent to the Veterans’ Hospital in Chickasha, OK. Upon arrival, a colonel on staff saw the shape that Bob was in and became furious. “I can’t believe the U.S. Army took someone with your hearing!” he said. Bob remained at the hospital in Chickasha for several months. He was fitted with hearing aids and was taught lip reading. Bob laughs when recalling

the hearing aids he was given. “I wish I had saved them. The area museums would have enjoyed displaying the large battery I had to carry around my waist.” The time spent at Camp Joseph T. Robinson cost Bob his hearing forever.

Bob’s wife, Jeane, accompanied him to Oklahoma, “living in a trailer among the Indians,” she says. During his rehabilitation to learn lip reading, Bob was assigned to work with injured veterans that came to the hospital. Many had lost the ability to work in certain vocations and Bob taught them how to overhaul engines, generators and carburetors.

Bob was discharged in 1946 as a Private First Class and returned to Mound City. On May 11, 1946 (Bob and Jeane’s fourth anniversary), Bob and Jeane and Paul and Ruth Crouse opened the doors to Crouse Brothers Motors where Laukemper Motors (GM) now stands. What started out as a used car dealership and garage soon became an Oldsmobile dealership, with other Pontiac and Chevrolet dealerships to join the company over the years. In 1974, Bob and Jeane bought out his brother and changed the deal-

CONTINUED TO PAGE 5
of the **VETERANS’ SECTION**



Thursday, November 5, 2015

Special Section to the

Mound City

NEWS

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

An organization for veterans

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is the oldest surviving veteran’s service organization in the United States. The national organization began in Denver in 1899 as the first official post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was officially chartered by Congress in 1914. Dedicated to working on behalf of veterans, it lobbies Congress for health care and benefits for veterans. It is also an important civic organization dedicated to integrating veterans into their local communities.

One of the organization’s many goals is to promote awareness through community involvement. The VFW has a long-standing relationship with the Boy Scouts of America and sponsors thousands of units across the country. It also sponsors scholarships like the Scout of the Year award, focused on citizenship and national service. It is also committed to helping the local community. With several thousand posts in diverse communities across the country, the organization offers programs based on local need and coordinates many volunteer efforts, including blood drives, community food kitchens and visits to hospitalized veterans. The primary focus is to develop community service and increase active citizenship in communities, with a heavy focus on shaping young people into model citizens.

In addition to its work in the community, the VFW connects active military units with locals in a number of ways. It provides free phone calls to deployed service members and those in the hospital recovering from injury. It helps local posts support active units through welcome-home and going-away events. It provides assistance to families who are deployed and have unexpected financial hardships.

If looking for a way to support veterans in remembrance of this Veterans’ Day, consider making a charitable contribution to the local VFW post. While it is a government-chartered non-profit organization, it receives no government contributions and relies solely on local contributions to keep its services afloat.

Few people not directly involved in the military are aware of the contributions made by active veterans’ groups like the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As a veteran, If there is a local post in the area, connecting with it can help one stay in touch with issues important and give a chance to help shape the youth in the community, continuing the trend of service started in the armed forces.



VETERANS DAY
November 11, 2015

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Wayne D. Atkins	Daniel Floyd	John Munshaw
Richard Barrett	D. L. Foley	Jimmy Paxton
Thomas Book	David Frederick	William Pierson
Anthony Bragg	Johnny Hinkle	Larry Price
Terry D. Buckles	Kenneth Jones	Terry Proffer
Gary Budine	LaDonna Jones	Larry Sipes
F. M. Buetzer	Steven Keller	Fred Troupe
Larry Buswell	Kelly Kunkel	Daniel Wagner
Dennis Carroll	Wayne Kurtz	David Winget
Jesse Chappell	Philip McAfee	

Our Local American Legion Rosters


Oregon American Legion Post #190		
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Wayne Atkins	Conrad Gebhart	Lawrence Miller
John Banks, Jr.	Dean Hall	Lewis Miller
James Botkin	Dwight Hall	Robert Nickols
Anthony Bragg	Larry Hicks	Richard Ottman
Jeremiah Bragg	Rickey Hurst	Karl Pierpoint
T.D. Buckles	Charles Killin	William Pierson
Allen Buetzer	Branson Kurtz	William Pulliam
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John Bunt	Larry Helfers	Frederick Rhoades
Michael Burnside	Charles Howard	Richard Roberts
Lloyd Christmas	Tom Howard	Duane Rosenbohm
Kenneth Davis	Bruce Ideker	Frederick Sauer
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David Farmer	Rodney Jackson	Bobby Sipes
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Dan Fries	Kenneth Kolthoff	Laverne Taylor
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Gary Geib	Jackie Miller	Johnnie Trauernicht
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William Graves	Joshua Ohlensehlen	Thomas Ward III
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Maitland/Graham American Legion Post #256

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Burdette Bond	Ralph Kibbey	Charles E. Shields
Charles Carpenter	Errol Leon Miles	Charles W. Shields
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Franklin Dreher	Mark Million	Richard Warner
Vera Gallagher	Dennie L. Murphy	Richard T. Warner II
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Mound City American Legion Post #121

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Jimmy Bevering	Audrey Heck	Eugene Poynter
Jason Biermann	Rodney Hicks	Bobby Roberts
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Veterans' Stories Lead To Understanding

Time in the armed forces can be complicated. Many people are very proud of their service and eager to tell their tale. Some are more reticent, leery of reliving their time in the service. One way that one can learn about military service during times of war is by working with the Veterans' History Project. Established in 2000 by Congress and signed into law by President Bill Clinton, the Veterans' History Project is housed in the Library of Congress and collects first-hand accounts of service members from World Wars I and II, Vietnam, Korea, the first Gulf War and the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also collects stories from those who supported the war efforts through their work, including private contractors, USO workers and medical personnel.

If you know a veteran, consider conducting and preserving an interview as a gift, perhaps for Veterans' Day. On this holiday designed to honor all living veterans, some thoughtful reflection on their service reported and recorded for prosperity can be of great benefit. Many veterans find a therapeutic value in sharing their stories, particularly with someone they know well. These stories can serve as a final contribution to a national dialogue about the experiences of individuals during wartime. Enjoying broad support in Congress, the Veterans' History Project is one way to learn about the detailed stories from veterans, even if you don't know any.

If you are a veteran or know someone who is, you can get involved in the Veterans' History Project. The first step to recording a story is to get a Field Kit from the Veterans' History Project. It provides detailed instructions on how to get the best interview, and there is even a comprehensive video that demonstrates best practices for interviews. The project is ongoing, so there is no deadline for submitting materials. If you are interested in interviewing someone but don't know a veteran, the program relies on volunteers and a set of veterans' service organizations in communities. You can be in touch with a group like the American Legion or the local Veterans of Foreign Wars department to see if they can help you contact a veteran.

By preserving an oral history, a variety of voices and perspectives can be heard about military service, not just the voices of a few in the history books. The project also collects artifacts from service members that include photos, diaries, memoirs and other historic documents.

If you are interested in learning more about the project, there is a broad-ranging website that provides all of the tools and information you need to get involved, whether you are a veteran yourself or are interested in interviewing someone. The project provides a unique window into the daily experiences of veterans in all branches of the military, a window you can explore to learn more about modern history and honor the service of veterans.

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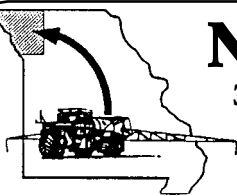
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History of Veterans' Day

World War I, known at the time as "The Great War", officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason,

November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars".

In November, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both be-

cause of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of

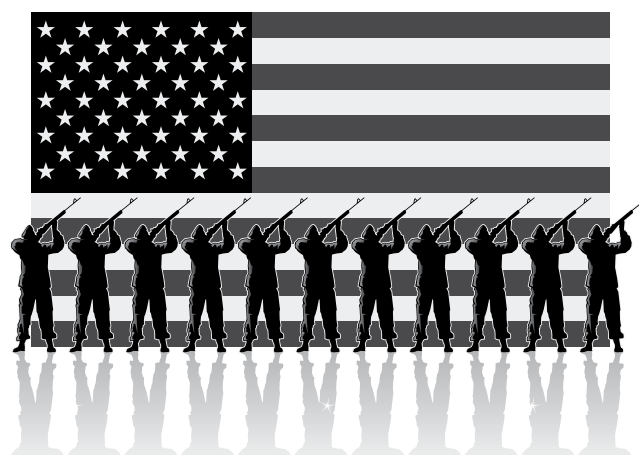
World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November, 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday - a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day". Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans' service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans". With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.



Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans' Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to ensure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans' Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans' Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans' Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March, 1989, when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal

employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans' Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans' Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans' service organizations and the American people.

Veterans' Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans' Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans' Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

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REMEMBER

THOSE WHO SERVED

Crouse recounts his shortened stint in the U.S. Army

FROM THE FRONT PAGE
of the VETERANS' SECTION

ership's name to Crouse Motors. Bob retired in 2004 from the Oldsmobile, Pontiac and Chevrolet dealership after being in business for 58 years. He also owned R&J Ford and Mercury for 16 years.

Bob recalls the first time he stepped into the drug store in Mound City after his return home

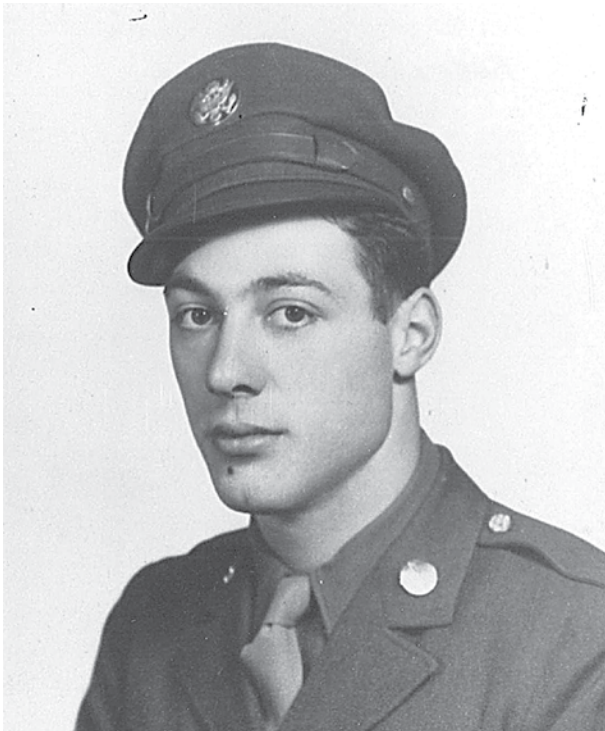
from the Army. Deb Robbins, the local pharmacist, was also in charge of membership of the Paul P. Shutts Post 121 American Legion. "He told me to give him the money for a membership, so I did," reminisces Bob. Seventy years later, he is an active lifetime member of Post 121.

Bob is on the Mound City Development Company board. In the past, he has served as pres-

ident of Gold Medal Chevrolet dealers; director and board member of the Missouri Automobile Dealers' Association; president of the Mount Hope Cemetery board; president and member of the Holt County R-2 school board; elder emeritus, trustee, chairman of the board and member of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); chairman of the Mound City Rodeo; life-

time member of Oregon Lodge #139 AF & AM; and lifetime member of the Scottish Rite, Moila and Legion of Honor in St. Joseph, MO.

Bob and Jeane, married 73 years, have one son, Robert Lynn (Christina) Crouse, of Jefferson City, MO; one daughter, Deborah Jean (Steve) Loucks, of Mound City; three grandchildren, Lauren Elizabeth Loucks of Emporia, KS, Carly Jane (Steven) Edwards of Mound City, and Courtney Ryan Crouse of Chicago, IL; and two great-grandsons, Jaxon Lee and Ryan Charles Edwards of Mound City.



Bob Crouse

THE GI BILL: Post 9/11

When soldiers returned home from World War II, many worried about what such a rapid influx of veterans would do to the country. Some feared that all of the unemployed men would create another Great Depression. To meet the demands of returning veterans, Congress passed what is commonly called the GI Bill or Rights, which included the right to an education and the guarantee of loans to own homes, two things that were out of reach for most Americans at the time. In 2008, the bill was amended to increase the benefits to those who served post 9/11. Officially called the Post-9/11 Veterans' Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the bill contains many benefits for veterans and their families.

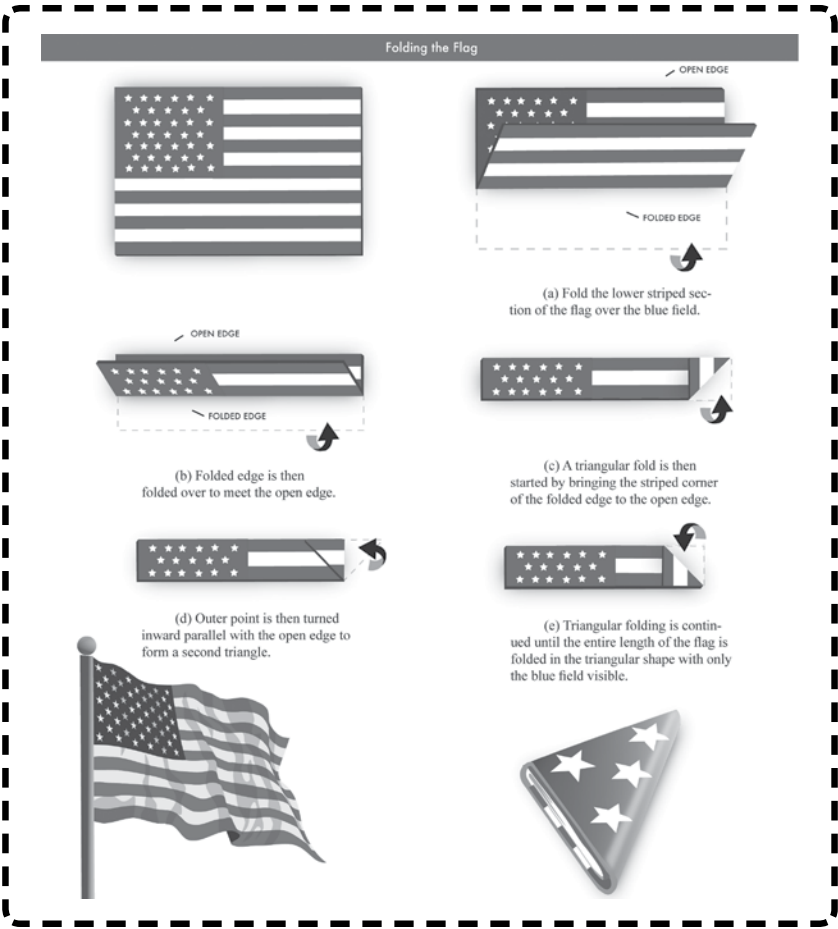
For veterans who have steady jobs to return to or who have trouble readjusting to civilian life, the benefit has been extended from 10 years to 15 years, allowing those who experience life changes during that time to still access their educational benefits. The benefits cover 36 months of higher education, and the specific dollar amount changes depending on the location of the veteran and the institution. Rates are based on in-state tuition for the most expensive public in-state school. In addition to these provisions, many states have passed laws that allow veterans to attend higher education institutions and pay in-state tuition, regardless of where they live.

The law also applies to more prestigious, private institutions, if those institutions are willing

to split the costs with the federal government, opening up new programs and opportunities for veterans. Previously, veterans had to cover the costs of books, supplies and college fees, which became a hardship with the rising costs of textbooks and fees. In the new bill, those costs are covered up to \$1,000 per year. A housing stipend is also provided in the new bill. This stipend changes depending on the cost of living, but the housing rate is based on the idea that the veteran will have dependents to take care of.

When most people think of college, they think of the four-year bachelor's degree. While many still pursue that degree, the GI Bill can also be used to pay for certificate programs in welding or one of the many developing medical fields. The law also covers the cost of a licensing or certification test, which can often be quite expensive. Community colleges have seen a significant rise in the enrollment of veterans because of these benefits.

Because of the foresight of lawmakers, veterans are now accessing higher education at an unprecedented rate. Much of the law is based on where a veteran lives, so applicants will need to work with their local Veterans' Administration office to determine what specific benefits are available to them. The 9/11 GI Bill provides significant support for veterans to achieve their academic goal, up to 15 years after they have completed service.





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Remembering Our Veterans

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WE SALUTE OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS

On Veterans' Day, we pay special tribute to the men and women who served and sacrificed to protect the lives and freedoms of Americans. We celebrate their courage, honor their memories and thank them for all they gave. Their legacy lives on, and we will never forget them.



TAYLOR CROUSE, Agent

702 State St.

Mound City, MO

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Remembering our veterans

The men and women who defend the liberties and freedoms of the countries they represent hold a special place in people's hearts and an eternal spot in their countries' histories.

Any opportunity is a good time to commemorate the bravery and selfless deeds of military personnel, but certain prominent holidays in November make this an especially important time to thank veterans for their service.

November 11 is Veterans' Day in the United States and Remembrance Day in Canada. It's also known as Armistice Day in other parts of the world. These holidays honor all military veterans who have provided service to their countries, and that each falls on November 11 is no coincidence, as the day commemorates the anniversary of the end of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Many places around the world pause and remember fallen veterans on November 11, but a good majority of Veterans' Day and Remembrance

Day commemorative events focus on past and current veterans who are still alive. There are many ways to honor the military at home and abroad in time for the November festivities. The following are just a handful of ways to show appreciation for military men and women.

- When dining out, ask your server if you can pay the tab for a soldier or veteran you see in the restaurant.
- Attend a military parade with your family and explain the significance of the day to children in attendance.
- Draft letters and send care packages to soldiers currently in service far away from home.
- Ask your company if Veterans' Day or Remembrance Day can be an observed holiday at your place of business each year to pay homage to servicemen and women.
- Visit a military memorial in a city near you. Your town also may have its own memorial.
- Petition town officials to erect a memorial if your town does not already have

one. Such memorials can be a source of inspiration for your community.

- Support a military family in your town who may be missing a loved one stationed elsewhere. Make meals, mow the lawn, help with grocery shopping, or simply provide emotional support.
- Volunteer time at a veterans' hospital. You may be able to read with veterans or engage in other activities.
- Get involved with a military support charity that can provide much-needed funds to struggling families or disabled veterans.
- Have children speak with veterans in your family, including grandparents, uncles and aunts or even their own parents. It can help them gain perspective on the important roles the military plays.
- Ask a veteran to give a commencement speech at a school or to be the guest of honor at a special function.



- Drive disabled veterans to doctors' appointments or to run any errands.
- Support a local VFW organization.
- Create a scrapbook for a veteran in your life.
- Cheer for or thank military personnel each time you see them.
- Visit the veterans' portion of a nearby cemetery and place poppies or other flowers on the graves.
- Always keep the military on your mind and never forget those who have served and didn't return home.

Armistice Day, Remembrance Day and Veterans' Day are great ways to honor past and current military for their service and sacrifice.

Salute to Veterans



On this day and every day, let us remember and honor our veterans.



Larry Olinger
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The Wall of Honor at Mount Hope Cemetery

The Wall of Honor at Mount Hope Cemetery just east of Mound City - Is "dedicated to the veterans who rest here" and is the centerpoint of the American Legion Tour on Memorial Day each year. For Memorial Day, Mount Hope Cemetery is decorated with flags and memorial flowers, making the Memorial Day ceremony very touching with a picturesque background.




REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS



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We Salute Our Veterans



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