Honoring All Who Served

VETERANS DAY

50th Anniversary

November 11, 2003

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'03 Veterans DAY

November 11th

"Let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

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The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee is pleased to provide this Teachers Resource Guide. It is our hope that by thanking America's veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, we can reward them with the honor they so richly deserve.

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VETERANS DAY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 11

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Dear Principal:

As citizens, we have a responsibility to educate our young people on the contributions and sacrifices veterans have made throughout the years. As a new school year begins, and another Veterans Day approaches, it is imperative to remember those men and women who fought and are even today serving in harm's way to preserve our freedom and the freedom of others.

This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Veterans Day Celebration. But, this annual celebration to recognize America's 25 million living veterans should not be limited to one week a year. Please use the enclosed poster in your school's celebration. In addition, we are providing your staff with the enclosed CD with this year's Teachers Resource Guide. This updated guide will provide information, ideas, and resources for your staff and is appropriate for elementary and secondary school classes.

To help your students gain an appreciation for the contributions American's veterans have made for all of us, the enclosed CD also has a video featuring actress and entertainer Jennifer Love Hewitt. The video will provide information about opportunities for your students to get involved with veterans in their local community. For additional information on Veterans Day, please visit our website at http://www.va.gov/vetsday.

On this historic anniversary of the Veterans Day celebration, please join us in honoring the 25 million living veterans whose selfless sacrifices ensure the freedoms we enjoy today and let us always remember the more than one million men and women who died in sacrifice to their country.

Thank you for remembering and honoring those veterans who served to preserve the liberties of this great Nation, keeping it united, strong, and free.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony J. Principi
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (002C), 810 VERMONT AVE., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420

Area Code (202) 273-8109 http://www.va.gov/vetsday/

History of Veterans Day

"A SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD"

In 1921, an American soldier—his name "known but to God"—was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery symbolized dignity and reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an "unknown soldier" of the Great War was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If World War I had indeed been "the War to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But in 1939, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered that dream. Of the 16 million Americans who served in the armed forces during World War II, more than 400,000 died.

"TO HONOR VETERANS OF ALL WARS"

Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Ala., organized a "Veterans Day" parade for that city on November 11, 1947, to honor all of America's veterans for their loyal service. Later, U.S. Representative Edward H. Rees of Kansas proposed legislation changing the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor all those who have served America in all wars.

In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day, and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace. He issued a Presidential Order directing the head of the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs, to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day. In addition to fulfilling that mission, the committee oversees the annual production and distribution of the Veterans Day Poster and this Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide.

In 1968, Congress moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. However, it became apparent that the November 11 date was historically significant to a great many Americans. As a result, Congress formally returned the observance of Veterans Day to its traditional date in 1978.

National Ceremony

"We must not forget the past. We must not forget those who sacrificed, but we must also remember the reason for their sacrifice. They died so tyranny would die. They died to create a better world for those of us who followed them. Their sacrifice was not in vain."

Secretary of State Colin Powell
As Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
50th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor
December 7, 1991

Congress formally returned the observance of Veterans Day to its traditional date in 1978

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11 at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m., a color guard, made up of members from each of the military services, renders honors to America's war dead during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds "Taps." The balance of the ceremony, including a "Parade of Flags" by numerous veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the Veterans Day National Committee supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow.

1. Veterans Day Ceremony

Because the weather can be quite raw in November in many parts of the country, an indoor assembly program eliminates the need to draw up foul weather contingency plans. The scope of such a program may be large enough to permit invitations to the community at large. This outline represents a typical one-hour program. Organizers should feel free to modify this program in any way.

Prelude and Posting of Colors — As the audience enters to be seated, a school or community musical organization may offer several appropriate selections. A procession and posting of the Nation's colors (the American Flag) is always a stirring event. Local veterans service organizations often participate in such programs with their impressive array of military banners and American flags.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Singing of the National Anthem — The program chairperson, school principal or student body president should invite the audience to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.

Introductory Remarks — Brief introductory remarks set the tone for the program. Consider reading the President's Veterans Day Proclamation, which the White House issues and posts on the Internet shortly before Veterans Day. For more information go to the Web site at http://www.whitehouse.gov. Additional remarks and suitable quotations for speeches can be found on the Veterans Day Web page (**http://www.va.gov/vetsday**).

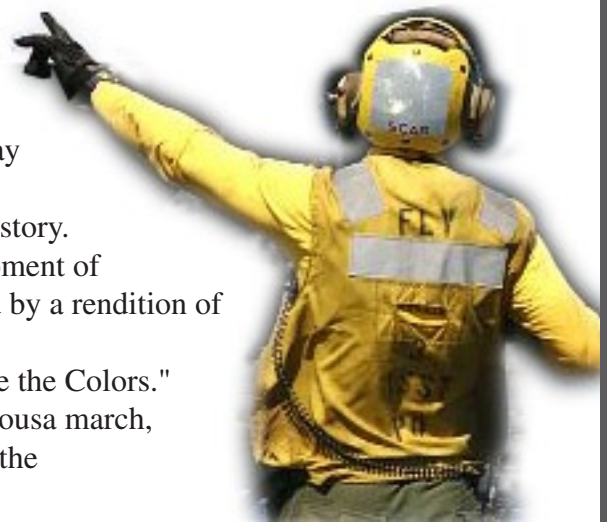
Special Musical Selection — A band or choral group could offer one of the more impressive patriotic selections available.

Introduction of Guests — Consider inviting special guests, including local government officials, school alumni with distinguished military service, veterans from the community who represent different periods of service and faculty members who are veterans.

Principal Speaker — Your principal speaker should be invited far enough in advance to allow adequate preparation for your program.

Student Essay or Reading — In school programs, student body participation may be increased by including in the program various presentations by individual pupils. Selected essays from class or school-wide competitions may be offered by the student-author. A reading by a student of a well-known patriotic address by an American President or military hero is also effective. There are a number of published musicals/narratives which can enhance your program.

Moment of Silence, Taps — While Veterans Day is primarily a tribute to America's living veterans, and is typically observed more as a celebration than as a somber remembrance, it is always appropriate to include a moment of respect for those who gave their lives for their country. The signing of the World War I Armistice took place in a railway coach near the battle zone in France. The bugles sounded "cease firing" and the hostilities ended, marking a most significant moment in world history. Although 11 a.m. remains a traditional hour for this type of tribute, a moment of silence is appropriate at any point in the program. This may be followed by a rendition of "Taps."



Closing — The Master of Ceremonies announces "Retire the Colors." Accompanied by appropriate music, such as a John Philip Sousa march, the colors are paraded out of the assembly area, concluding the ceremony.

2. Message to Veterans

One of the most personal and meaningful Veterans Day activities for students is to send notes or cards to hospitalized veterans or those living in veterans homes. Students can design and send individual notes or cards or work together as a group and send an oversized card or poster signed by all of the students in the class, then mail them in one large envelope to the nearest VA medical center or state veterans home.

Addresses for state veterans homes and VA medical centers in your area can be found in the blue government pages of the telephone book. There also is a link to the VA facility locator on the Veterans Day Web page (**http://www.va.gov/vetsday**). Envelopes sent to medical centers should be addressed to "Voluntary Service Director" and those sent to veterans homes should be addressed to "Administrator."

3. Flag-Raising Ceremony

Weather permitting, outdoor flag-raising ceremonies highlight an activity that occurs daily at many schools, but often goes unnoticed. Such a ceremony, although brief, should include the Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of the National Anthem. A special guest may be invited to participate.

4. Musical Program

Veterans Day offers an excellent opportunity for school or community musical organizations to display their talents. A midday concert at the school or at a central location in the community may be especially dedicated to Veterans Day. An innovative program might include selections known to have been popular during America's wars.

5. School Newspaper

Veterans Day stories can be featured in school publications. Publish a roster of faculty members who are veterans. Describe Veterans Day activities being held in classrooms throughout the school.

6. Poster Contest

The creative talents of students can be encouraged through participation in a school-wide Veterans Day poster contest. Winners should be appropriately recognized and awarded certificates. Local newspapers should be invited to photograph the winning entries.

Veterans Day 2003

7. Library Activities

School or community libraries can prepare lists of recommended reading material suitable for Veterans Day. An appropriate display of book jackets or a special shelf containing selected publications can be used to call attention to the project. For more ideas, go to the Library of Congress Web site for children at **http://www.americaslibrary.gov.**

8. Plays and Skits

A short dramatic scene can make Veterans Day meaningful for students by providing an opportunity to perform historical research and use creativity to express their feelings about veterans. The script for a play written for elementary school students to perform can be found on the Veterans Day Web page at **http://www.va.gov/vetsday.**

9. Football Games

Veterans Day is observed at the time of year when schools and clubs are engaged in football competition. The presentation of the colors and playing of the National Anthem may be keyed to Veterans Day by an appropriate public address announcement. Halftime presentations by school bands afford an ideal opportunity to offer special patriotic selections and marching routines. Card section displays may also be used to spell out phrases such as “Thank You Veterans” or “Veterans Day” in stadium stands to visually recognize those who served on Veterans Day.

10. School Cafeteria Activies

Patriotic decorations in school dining areas add a colorful reminder of Veterans Day. Create special menu items such as decorated cupcakes or cookies. Download VA’s Veterans Day 2002 poster from the Web site for placement in the cafeteria, in classrooms and on school bulletin boards.

11. Patriotic Groups

Local veterans, historical or other patriotic organizations may enliven Veterans Day programs by providing period-uniformed flag bearers, fife and drum corps, and other marching and musical units. These organizations may also provide speakers with unique military experiences to share. One of the most popular activities among students is to meet with local veterans during an assembly or in individual classrooms to hear veterans share their experiences and answer student questions. The veterans can be relatives of students or members of local veterans service organizations.

12. Writing Assignments

Veterans Day themes can be included in writing assignments. Accounts of military service told to students by relatives or friends can help develop narrative skills. Assign students to investigate the various benefits offered to veterans by government agencies. Write about veterans who are receiving educational benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Describe various veterans memorials which may be located nearby.

13. Uniforms and Emblems

The colorful and varied uniforms and emblems worn by members of the armed forces throughout our history offer students of all ages ideal subjects to draw and paint. Elementary school children enjoy opportunities to create and exhibit costume items. Making colored construction paper hats representing various military eras is a modest and effective way of interesting pupils in Veterans Day subjects. The official emblems and seals of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard can be portrayed by students in a variety of methods, such as mosaics, applique, decoupage, as well as the traditional painting and drawing approaches.

14. Students Relatives

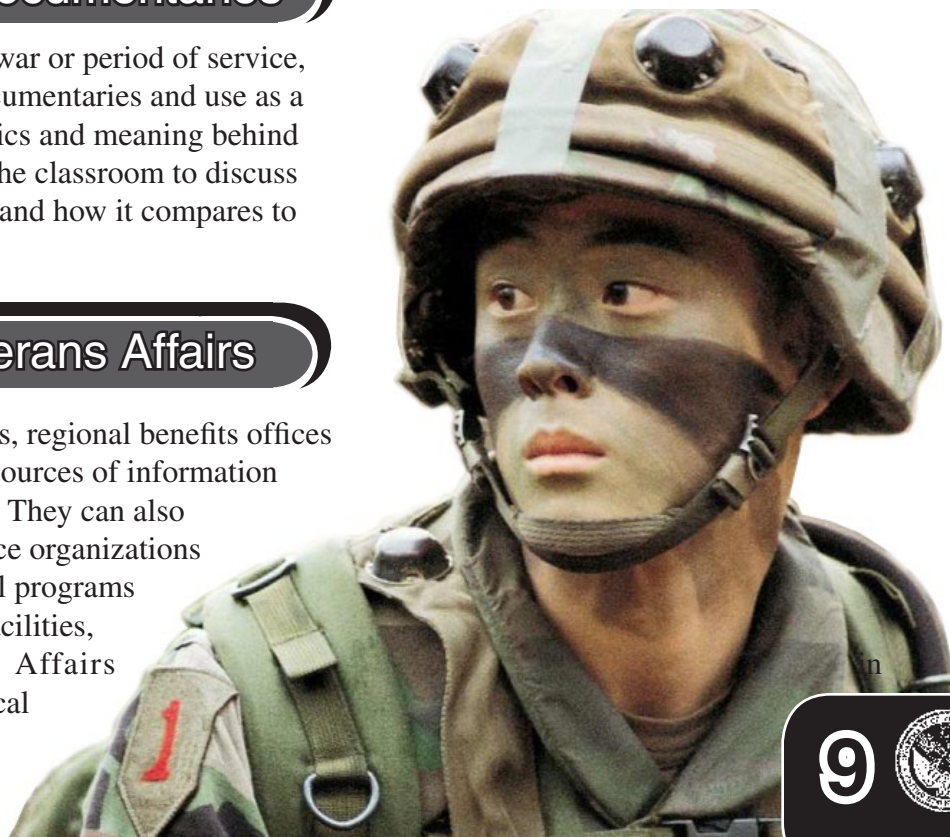
Ask students to research and list all their known relatives who have served in the Armed Forces. With more than 30 percent of the United States population comprised of veterans, their dependents and survivors, students may tap into a rich history going back as far as the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

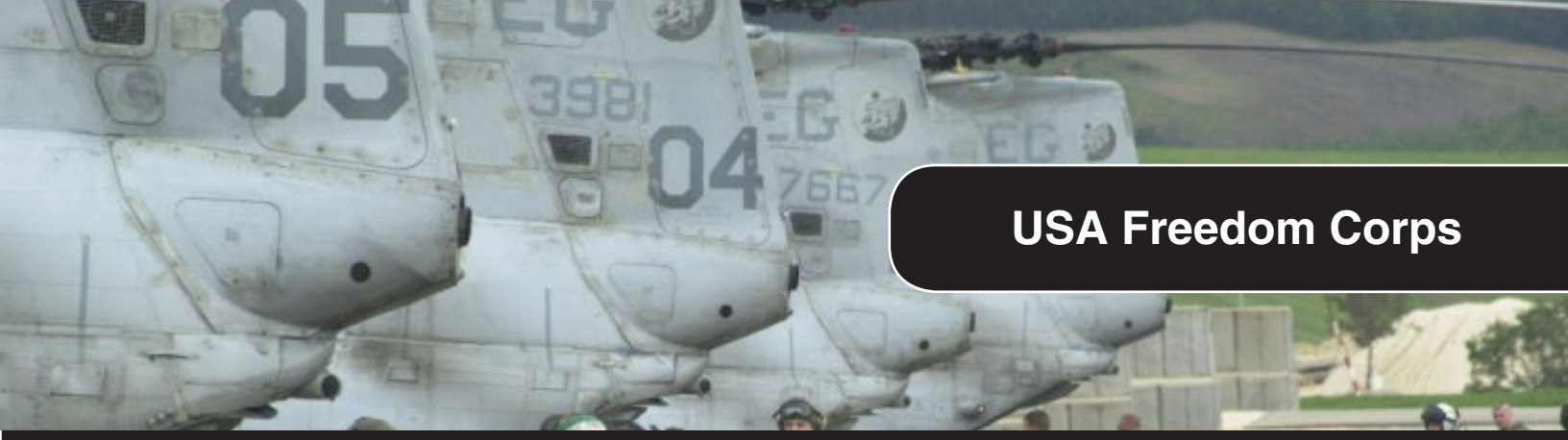
15. Movies and Documentaries

To introduce students to a particular war or period of service, show appropriately rated movies and documentaries and use as a starting point to discuss the history, politics and meaning behind each war. Why not bring a veteran into the classroom to discuss his or her personal experience in service and how it compares to what is portrayed in the movie.

16. Department of Veterans Affairs

Local VA facilities — medical centers, regional benefits offices and national cemeteries — can serve as sources of information and speakers for Veterans Day programs. They can also provide contact with local veterans service organizations and arrange visits, tours and other special programs for students. To contact your local VA facilities, look under Department of Veterans Affairs the Federal government listings in the local telephone directory.



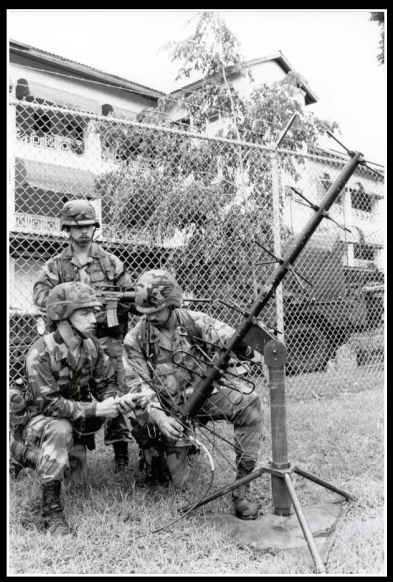


USA Freedom Corps

President George W. Bush has called on all Americans to commit to at least 4,000 hours — the equivalent of two years over the course of their lives — to the service of others. By serving something greater than themselves, young people will learn about their rich democratic traditions as Americans, help meet vital community needs and become responsible citizens. Given the challenges we face as a Nation, educating our young people to be knowledgeable and skillful participants in a free society has never been more important. American schools have long encouraged students to participate in volunteer service in many forms — ranging from individual volunteer activities, to service projects organized by student groups or faculty members, to formal service projects that link to academic lessons and credit. For more information on the President's Freedom Corp School Volunteer Program, go to the Web site at **http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/for_organizations/schools/index.asp.**

Voluntary Service Program

In conjunction with the President's call to volunteerism, the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program (VAVS) assists veterans by bringing in student volunteers to assist staff at VA medical centers, outpatient facilities, veterans outreach centers, national cemeteries and regional offices. VAVS offers student volunteers excellent opportunities to learn about veterans first hand, gain community service credit and receive valuable experience and training which will benefit them in applying for college and jobs. A scholarship opportunity is available to qualified students who volunteer at VA medical centers through the James H. Parke Memorial Youth Scholarship Award. There are currently more than 24,000 student volunteers nationwide providing service to veterans. For more information on VA's Voluntary Service Program, go to **http://www.va.gov/volunteer.**



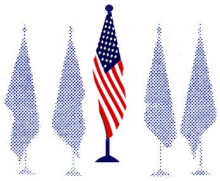
1. Fly Your Flag
2. Fold Your Flag
3. Puzzle
4. America's Wars

A note to teachers: The Department of Veterans Affairs suggests that the following pages be reproduced and distributed to students as part of your Veterans Day lessons. America's Wars offers a comprehensive listing of our nation's conflicts throughout our history, and provides insights on the human costs of defending our freedom. The Flag Etiquette section provides students and their families with information on how to properly fold and display the American Flag, and encourages young people to display our national emblem with pride and with honor. Our flag is the symbol of the values and ideals America's veterans risked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to defend: it is appropriate not only to fly the flag on Veterans Day, but to remind students, and all citizens, of the values it has always stood for.

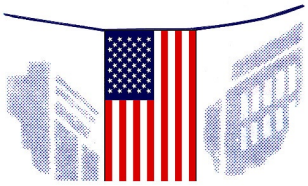
Fly Your Flag Regularly And Correctly

The U.S. flag, when carried in a procession with another or other flags, should be either on the marching right (the flag's own right) or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. Never display the U.S. flag from a float except from a staff, or so suspended that its folds fall free as though staffed.

The U.S. flag, when displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the U.S. flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



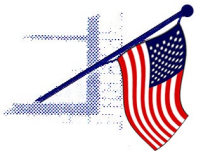
The U.S. flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.



When the U.S. flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat, or so suspended that its folds fall free. When displayed over a street, place the union so it faces north or east, depending upon the direction of the street.

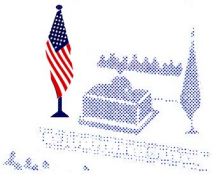
When other flags are flown from the same halyard, the U.S. flag should always be at the peak. When other flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the U.S. flag should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag may fly above or the right of the U.S. flag (except flags of other nations; see below).

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

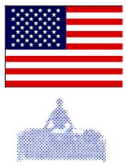


When the U.S. flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff. When suspended from a rope extending from the building on a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first from the building.

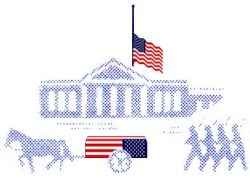
The U.S. flag should form a distinctive feature at the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.



When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the U.S. flag should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergy's or speaker's right facing the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the speaker or to the right of the audience.



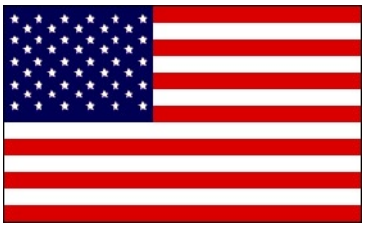
If displayed flat against the wall on a speaker's platform, the U.S. flag should be placed above and behind the speaker with the union of the flag in the upper left-hand corner as the audience faces the flag.

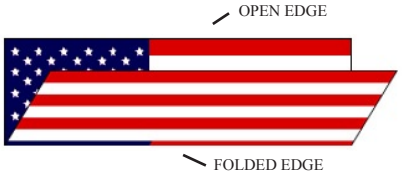


When the U.S. flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground. The flag, when flown at half staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for a moment and then lowered to half staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.

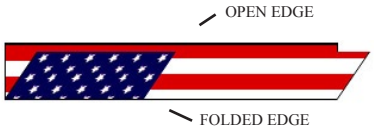
During a ceremony when hoisting, lowering or when the flag is passing in parade, all persons should face the flag, stand at attention and salute. A man should remove his hat and hold it with the right hand over the heart. Men without hats and women salute by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute to the flag in the moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

Correct Method of Folding The United States Flag

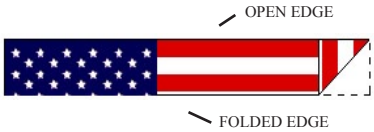




(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.

(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.

(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.

Respecting Your Flag

Important Things to Remember

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. If not in uniform, a person should remove his or her hat with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, with the hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Display the U.S. flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff in the forenoon (sunrise until noon), then raised to its normal position at the top of the staff. When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way. The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days. Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.

Things Not to Do

Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag. Never dip the U.S. flag to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor. Never display the U.S. flag with the field of stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal. Never let the U.S. flag touch anything beneath it — ground, floor, water or merchandise. Never carry the U.S. flag horizontally, but always aloft and free.

Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free — never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below. Never fasten, display, use or store the U.S. flag in a manner that will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. Never use the U.S. flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling or use it for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything. Never place anything on the U.S. flag and never have placed upon it, or on any part of it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, fire fighters, police officers and members of patriotic organizations. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown. When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Many veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

Veterans Day Word Find

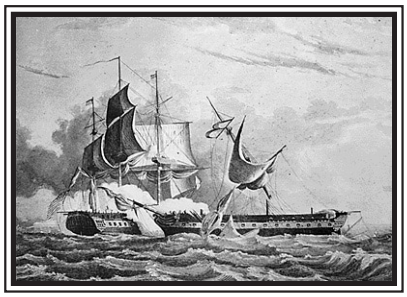
V	L	M	G	Q	B	F	A	T	M	X	O	Z	A	E
U	E	R	F	U	P	N	G	G	D	H	U	B	C	W
V	E	T	R	A	T	W	A	N	K	M	U	R	J	E
P	J	F	E	H	H	L	N	V	A	Q	O	V	S	C
C	S	J	E	R	F	D	A	R	I	F	N	W	K	I
M	U	M	D	S	A	U	I	I	R	O	N	O	H	F
G	S	S	O	S	B	N	O	I	A	R	M	Y	L	I
Y	V	I	M	B	E	A	A	S	O	L	D	I	E	R
V	O	H	T	C	D	R	A	U	G	T	S	A	O	C
A	C	R	O	O	W	C	Q	J	F	Z	S	G	P	A
N	D	R	E	K	I	A	S	U	V	C	B	D	R	S
M	P	B	U	H	Y	R	R	M	D	R	F	A	M	A
S	N	P	T	N	D	N	T	Z	B	E	S	O	F	J
L	P	L	V	R	M	K	J	A	E	T	G	Y	L	F
N	J	J	B	I	F	N	T	F	P	C	M	N	C	Y

AIRFORCE
COASTGUARD
HERO
NAVY
ANTHEM
FLAG
HONOR
PATRIOTISM
ARMY
FREEDOM
MARINECORPS
SACRIFICE
SOLDIER
VETERAN
WAR

America's Wars

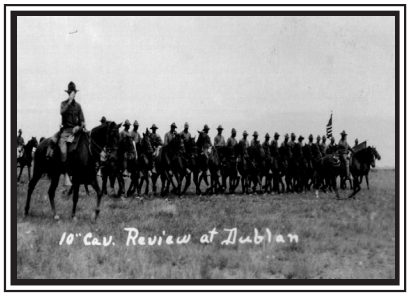
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
(1775 - 1783)

Total Servicemembers.....184,000 to 250,000
Battle Deaths.....4,435
Non-mortal Woundings.....6,188



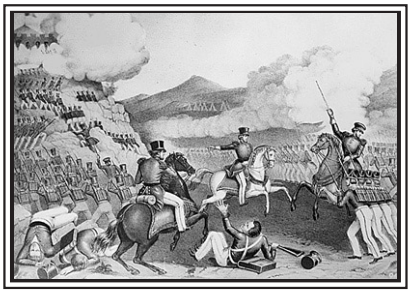
WAR OF 1812
(1812 - 1815)

Total Servicemembers.....286,730
Battle Deaths.....2,260
Non-mortal Woundings.....4,505



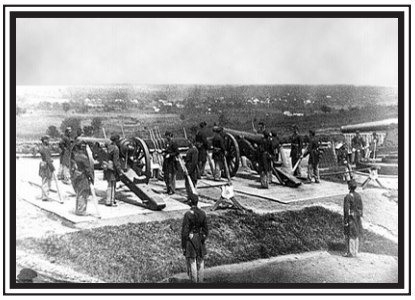
INDIAN WARS
(Approx. 1817 - 1898)

Total Servicemembers.....106,000
Battle Deaths.....1,000



MEXICAN WAR
(1846 - 1848)

Total Servicemembers.....78,718
Battle Deaths.....1,733
Other Deaths in Service.....11,550
Non-mortal Woundings.....4,152



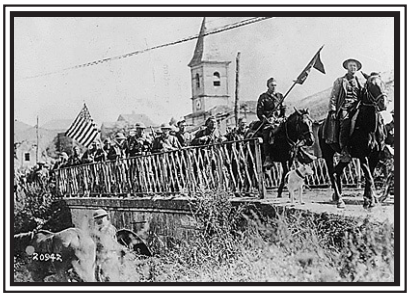
CIVIL WAR (1861 - 1865)

Total Servicemembers (Union).....2,213,363
Battle Deaths (Union).....140,414
Other Deaths in Service (Union).....224,097
Non-mortal Woundings (Union).....281,881
Total Servicemembers (Confederate)..... 1,500,000
Battle Deaths (Confederate).....74,524
Other Deaths in Service (Confederate).....59,297**
Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate).....unknown

SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR
(1898 - 1902)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....306,760
Battle Deaths.....385
Other Deaths in Service.....2,061
Non-mortal Woundings.....1,662

America's Wars



WORLD WAR I
(1917 - 1918)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....4,734,991
Battle Deaths.....53,402
Other Deaths in Service.....63,114
Non-mortal Woundings.....204,002
Living Veterans.....less than 200*

WORLD WAR II
(1941 - 1945)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....16,112,566
Battle Deaths.....291,557
Other Deaths in Service.....113,842
Non-mortal Woundings.....671,846
Living Veterans.....4,370,000*

KOREAN WAR
(1950 - 1953)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....5,720,000
Battle Deaths.....33,741
Other Deaths (in Theater).....2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....17,670
Non-mortal Woundings.....103,284
Living Veterans.....3,580,000*

VIETNAM WAR
(1964 - 1975)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....9,200,000
Battle Deaths.....47,415
Other Deaths (in Theater).....10,785
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....est. 32,000
Non-mortal Woundings.....16,897,003
Living Veterans.....25,179,000*

DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM
(1990 - 1991)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....2,322,332
Battle Deaths.....147
Other Deaths (in Theater).....235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....914
Non-mortal Woundings.....467
Living Veterans.....1,889,000*

AMERICA'S WARS TOTAL
(America's Wars Figures are through September 30, 2002)

Military Service During Time of War 42,348,460
Battle Deaths.....651,013
Other Deaths (in Theater).....13,855
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....524,545
Non-mortal Woundings.....1,431,290
Living War Veterans.....(16,897,000)*
Total Living Veterans.....25,179,000*

Source: Department of Defense, unless otherwise indicated.

"Other Deaths in Service" is the number of service members who died while on active duty, other than those attributable to combat, regardless of the location or cause of death.

Total Living Veterans includes veterans who served during periods other than those shown above.

* VA estimate based on improved statistical analysis from 2000 census
** An estimated additional 26,000 to 31,000 died in Union prisons.

Photos:
National Archives and Records Administration: http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html
Defense Visual Information Center: http://www.dodmedia.osd.mil/

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 1, 2003

I send greetings to the students and teachers observing Veterans Day in America's schools.

Our Nation is strong because of the brave men and women who have sacrificed through the years to protect the democratic ideals that are the foundation of America. On Veterans Day, we honor our veterans who made contributions, not just to the defense of our Nation, but to the character of our country. From securing our homeland to advancing the cause of freedom, our veterans have helped make the world a safer place.

As we continue to fight the global war against terrorism, we remember our veterans' commitment to our country and their legacy of patriotism. By answering the call of duty and risking their lives to protect their fellow citizens, these patriots provide inspiration for all Americans.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable Veterans Day observance.

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