



NOVEMBER 11, 2013
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the hundreds of celebrations that will commemorate Veterans Day 2013. This Teacher Resource Guide is designed to help educators teach students about the legacy of Veterans Day, why it is celebrated and how to properly thank our Nation's servicemen and women for their sacrifices. Currently, there are more than 22 million Veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces that have reintegrated back into our society. It is quite likely that one of your students has a parent, grandparent, sibling or neighbor who is a Veteran or still serving. By engaging in discussion about these crucial members of our society, students will be able to hear from and about those who helped shape American history. Our hope is that students will be encouraged to learn more of these stories from those close to them.

This resource guide, along with another group of America's finest — our educators — will allow students, on Veterans Day, to learn more about the price these brave service members have paid to defend our nation.

Thanks again and please join us in remembering our Veterans on Veterans Day, November 11, 2013.



Program Ideas

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 U.S. flag) is 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 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 online shortly before Veterans Day.

Introduction of Guests — Introduce any special guests, which might include 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.

Program cont.

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

Student Essay or Reading — By including presentations by students, participation may be increased. Selected essays from class or school-wide competitions may be offered by the student-author. A reading 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. A short play or skit performed by the younger students can be exciting as well.

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 (Memorial Day), it is always appropriate to include a moment of respect for those who gave their lives for our 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 fire and the hostilities ended, marking a most significant moment in world history. Although 11:00 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. This concludes the ceremony.

Origins of Veterans Day

Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, 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 who have served in America's Armed Forces.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th 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.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th 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.

The Difference Between Memorial Day and Veterans Day

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Both holidays were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. But Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, which is observed on November 11, Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.



Research Local Memorials

Sixty miles south of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., is a small marker that pays homage to Union Troops who fought in the battle of Fredericksburg during the Civil War. Across our nation, memorials and markers can be found that honor the brave men and women who have served our nation. From the Revolutionary War to our present conflict, these memorials range in size and scope from large monuments that represent a state's Veterans to small plaques that may recognize only a few individuals from a small town. These memorials are not intended to glorify war, but to ensure that we remember the sacrifice by those men and women who have offered and given their life to ensure our freedom and liberties. For a Veterans Day project, students may research local Veterans' memorials.



The National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia.



The United States War Dog memorial in Holmdel, New Jersey

Tomb of the Unknowns

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.”



ially received its name in America in
s later. If World War I had indeed
November 11 might still be called Armistice
World War II broke out and shattered that dream.
who served in the Armed Forces
d.

America's Wars



WORLD WAR I (1917 - 1918)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	4,734,991
Battle Deaths.....	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings.....	204,002
Living Veterans.....	0



WORLD WAR II (1941 - 1945)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	16,112,566
Battle Deaths.....	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings.....	670,846
Living Veterans.....	1,711,000



KOREAN WAR (1950 - 1953)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	5,720,000
Battle Deaths.....	33,739
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings.....	103,284
Living Veterans.....	2,275,000



VIETNAM WAR (1964 - 1975)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	8,744,000
Battle Deaths.....	47,434
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings.....	153,303
Living Veterans.....	7,391,000



GULF WAR (1990 - 1991)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	2,322,000
Battle Deaths.....	148
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	1,565
Non-mortal Woundings.....	467
Living Veterans.....	2,244,583



GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR (2001 - PRESENT)

The Global War on Terror is an ongoing conflict. For the most recent statistics, please visit the Department of Defense Web site:
http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot_component.pdf

Respecting the U.S. Flag

Important Things to Remember

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 (lower quickly and then raise) 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.

Folding the U.S. Flag



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



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



c). Start a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge up to the open edge.



d). Outer point is then turned inward to create 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.



A Veterans Day Play: “Who is a Veteran”

Introduction: The following is a presentation set in a school media center where fifth grade students have been sent to do a research project on veterans and the Veterans Day holiday.

Setting: Table in Media Center

Student 1: Hey, did you bring your markers and paper?

Student 2: Yes. I have everything we’ll need for our pictures and drawings.

Student 1: What are we going to draw?

Student 2: Silly! You know we’re here to research veterans and the Veterans Day Holiday on November 11th.

Student 3: How do I draw a veteran? I don’t even know what it is.

Student 4: A veteran is a “who” and not a “what.” You’d better start by going to the dictionary and looking up the definition of a “veteran.”

Student 3: What do you mean a veteran is a who?

Student 1: Go look it up! We can use the definition in our project!

Student 3: Is a veteran a person?

Student 2: Go look it up in the dictionary!

A Veterans Day Play: “Who is a Veteran” (cont.)

Student 3: All right! All right! (Student 3 pages through dictionary.) Here it is, “A veteran is a person who has served in the armed forces, an experienced soldier, especially one who served in time of war.” and, “Veterans Day is a legal holiday in the United States honoring all veterans of the armed forces.”

Student 1: See, a veteran isn’t a “what,” it’s a person who died for our country. They’re the ones that get flags put on their graves on holidays.

Student 4: No! No! No! A veteran isn’t always someone who died in a war, or who even fought in a war at all.

Student 3: She’s right. A veteran is a man who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force.

Student 4: Well, you’re half right.

Student 2: What do you mean I’m “half right”?

Student 4: Well, women can be veterans too. Many women have served our country in the Armed Forces in times of peace and in times of war. Women can be veterans too.

Student 3: You mean a veteran doesn’t have to have been in a war?

Student 1: No. Just having been in the Armed Forces makes a person a veteran.

Student 2: Wow! Veterans are really special people aren’t they? I mean, if a person is in the armed Forces and we have a war, then they have to go. Right?

Student 4: No, not really. Veterans are people who have already served, but are no longer in the Armed Forces of our country. My grandfather is a veteran. He was in the Korean War, and my uncle Jake is a veteran too because he was in the Navy.

A Veterans Day Play: “Who is a Veteran” (cont.)

Student 3: You know, veterans really are special people and they deserve to be honored with a holiday.

Student 1: There are a lot of patriotic songs that honor veterans and our country. Maybe we could include a song with our project.

Student 2: I think there’s a song book over here that has all the words to patriotic songs.

Student 4: Great! Let’s pick out one that everybody can sing along with.

Student 3: Veterans Day would be a good time to remember and to thank veterans for all they have done for us and for our country.

Finale: A patriotic song, such as The National Anthem, God Bless America, America the Beautiful, or God Bless the U.S.A., is performed by the actors or an assembled group of students. The rest of the students also may be encouraged to sing along.

The End

Special Thanks to:

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For Additional Information, Contact:

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