

# 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.

Department of Defense





## 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.....	2,079,000



## 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.....	2,507,000



## 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.....	7,569,000



## 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.....	2,246,002



## GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR (2001 - PRESENT)

The Global War on Terror, including Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom are ongoing conflicts.



Robert Turtill

## HOW TO CONTACT VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Veterans service organizations are groups of Veterans that come together to promote and support Veterans' issues. Many organizations consist of members that share a common experience, such as those that served in the same military unit or period of war. The following is a list of organizations that serve on the Veterans Day National Committee. Many of these groups have chapters throughout the country with Veterans who can share their experiences with younger generations.



The Military Order of the World Wars: 435 North Lee St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 683-4911; [www.militaryorder.net/](http://www.militaryorder.net/).



The Retired Enlisted Association: 1111 S. Abilene Court, Aurora, CO 80012; 1-800-338-9337; [www.trea.org/](http://www.trea.org/).



Congressional Medal of Honor Society: 40 Patriots Point Rd, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464; (843) 884-8862; [www.cmohs.org/](http://www.cmohs.org/).



Disabled American Veterans: 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Springs, KY 41076; (859) 441-7300; [www.dav.org/](http://www.dav.org/).



Military Officers Association of America: 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 549-2311; [www.moaa.org/](http://www.moaa.org/).



Polish Legion of American Veterans: P.O. Box 42024, Washington, DC 20015; [www.plav.org/](http://www.plav.org/).



Korean War Veterans Association: 8452 Marys Creek Dr. Benbrook, TX 76116-7600; (817) 244-0706; [www.kwva.org/](http://www.kwva.org/).



American G.I. Forum: 2870 N. Speer Blvd., Suite 102, Denver, CO 80211; (303) 458-1700; [www.agifusa.org/](http://www.agifusa.org/).



Jewish War Veterans of the USA: 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009; 202-265-6280; [www.jwv.org/](http://www.jwv.org/).



American Ex-Prisoners of War: 3201 East Pioneer Pky, #40, Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979; [www.axpow.org/](http://www.axpow.org/).



Catholic War Veterans: 441 North Lee St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 549-3622; <http://cww.org/>.



# World Holidays

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Vietnam Veterans of America:  
8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301)  
585-4000; [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org).



Veterans of Foreign Wars of  
the United States: 406 West 34th  
Street, Kansas City, MO 64111;  
(816) 756-3390; [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).



AMVETS: 4647 Forbes Boule-  
vard, Lanham, MD 20706-4380;  
(301) 459-9600; [www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org).



Blinded Veterans Association:  
477 H Street, NW, Washington,  
DC 20001-2694; (202) 371-8880;  
[www.bva.org](http://www.bva.org).



Army and Navy Union: 604 Rob-  
bins Ave., Niles, OH 44446; (330)  
349-4724; [armynavyunion.com](http://armynavyunion.com).



Non Commissioned Officers  
Association: 9330 Corporate Dr.,  
#702, Selma, TX 78154-1257; (210)  
653-6161; [www.ncoausa.org](http://www.ncoausa.org).



The American Legion: P.O. Box  
1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206;  
(317) 630-1200; [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).



Military Order of the Purple  
Heart of the USA, Inc.: 5413-C  
Backlick Rd., Springfield, VA 22151;  
(703) 354-2140;  
[www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org).



Pearl Harbor Survivors Associa-  
tion: P.O. Box 1588, Hemet, CA  
92456-1588; (951) 927-8179;  
[www.pearlharborsurvivor.net](http://www.pearlharborsurvivor.net)



Fleet Reserve Association:  
125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA  
22314-2754: 1-800-FRA-1924;  
[www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)



The Marine Corps League:  
8626 Lee Hwy, Suite 201, Fairfax,  
VA 22031; (703) 207-9588/89;  
[www.mclnational.org](http://www.mclnational.org).



The Military Chaplains  
Association: P.O. Box 7056,  
Arlington, VA 22207-7056; (703)  
533-5890; [www.mca-usa.org](http://www.mca-usa.org).



The Paralyzed Veterans of  
America: 801 18th Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20006; (202)  
872-1300; [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org).



Legion of Valor of the USA, Inc:  
4706 Calle Reina, Santa Barbara,  
CA 93110-2018; (805) 692-2244;  
[www.legionofvalor.com](http://www.legionofvalor.com).

In addition, the Veterans Day National  
Committee is comprised of the following Associate  
Members:

- American Gold Star Mothers
- Gold Star Wives of America
- Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.
- Blue Star Mothers of America
- Air Force Association
- Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Air Force Sergeants Association
- Help Hospitalized Veterans
- American Red Cross
- National Association of State Veterans Homes
- Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
- National Association for Uniformed Services
- Japanese American Veterans Association
- Bowlers to Veterans Link
- Wounded Warrior Project
- Association of the United States Navy
- Reserve Officers Association
- National Association of State Directors of  
Veterans Affairs
- The Women's Army Corps Veteran's  
Association

For an online directory of Veterans organizations,  
please visit [www.va.gov/vso/](http://www.va.gov/vso/).