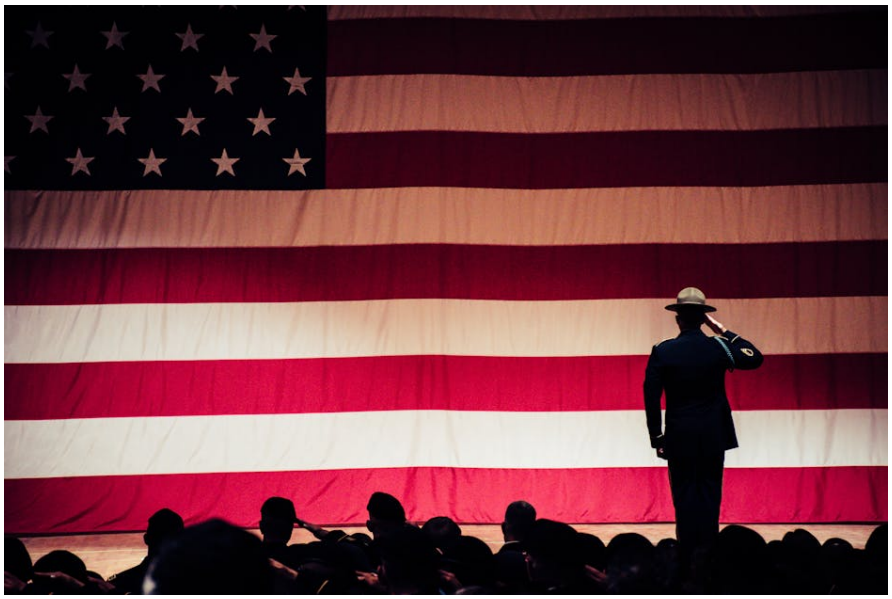
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VETERANS DAY

Honoring Those Who Served

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Every November 11, the United States pauses to thank the men and women who have served in the armed forces. Veterans Day is a quiet, respectful holiday, and it gives families a meaningful chance to teach gratitude and remember the people who served our country.

The History

Veterans Day began as Armistice Day. On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the fighting of World War I came to an end. People around the world celebrated the return of peace, and the date became a day of remembrance.

In 1938, Armistice Day became an official United States holiday to honor the veterans of World War I. After more wars and more brave service members, the country wanted to honor all veterans, not just those from one war.

In 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a law changing the name to Veterans Day. Today the holiday honors every man and woman who has served in the United States military, in war and in peace.

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The Story

Veterans Day is often marked by quiet, dignified ceremonies. At Arlington National Cemetery, a special wreath is laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which honors service members whose names are not known. Guards watch over the tomb every hour of every day, all year long.

Many families have a veteran in their own history, a grandparent, a parent, an aunt or uncle, or a family friend. Veterans Day is a wonderful time to ask them about their service, listen to their stories, and simply say thank you.

Why It Matters

Veterans Day teaches children gratitude and respect. It helps them understand that the freedoms we enjoy were protected by real people who made real sacrifices, and that saying thank you to those who served is a small but meaningful act.

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Timeline

A quick look at how Veterans Day came to be.

1918	World War I fighting ends on November 11, the first Armistice Day.
1919	President Wilson proclaims the first observance of Armistice Day.
1938	Armistice Day becomes an official United States holiday.
1954	The holiday is renamed Veterans Day to honor all who served.
Today	Americans observe Veterans Day with ceremonies, parades, and thanks.

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Did You Know? Amazing Facts

- Veterans Day is always on November 11, no matter what day of the week it falls on.
- It is different from Memorial Day. Veterans Day honors all who served, while Memorial Day remembers those who died in service.
- Armistice Day marked the end of World War I fighting at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.
- The name changed from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954.
- A moment of silence is often observed at 11:00 in the morning on Veterans Day.
- There are roughly eighteen million living veterans in the United States today.

For Young Learners

A veteran is someone who served in the military to help protect our country. On Veterans Day we say thank you to them. A simple thank you, a handmade card, or a kind word can mean a great deal to someone who served.

Activity, Craft, and Game

Activity

Write a thank you letter to a veteran. If your family knows a veteran, deliver it in person. If not, many organizations collect cards and letters to send to service members and veterans.

Craft

Make a red poppy, the traditional symbol of remembrance, out of red paper and a green pipe cleaner. Wear it on November 11 and talk about why the poppy stands for those who served.

Game

Play a respectful matching game. Create cards for the branches of the military, such as Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Space Force, and match each one to its symbol or motto.

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