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# Veterans Day 1988

Seventy years ago today, a significant event occurred in world history. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, all became quiet on the Western Front. This time it was for good. The guns would remain silent. In a railroad car in France, an armistice was signed and the First World War came to an end after more than four years of fighting.

For many years, Armistice Day remained simply a day to honor the veterans of World War I. But in 1954, after millions of Americans had served in two more wars, the concept changed. In that year Congress passed Public Law 380 and redesignated November 11th as Veterans Day, a time to remember American veterans of all wars. \*

*In my family - my father served in World War I  
my husband in World War II + Korea*

So, as we gather here today, we continue a tradition that has been with us for many years. And, it is certainly proper that we do so. For the veterans of this nation remain a vital part of our heritage. You and I stand here today in freedom, and can celebrate this very event, because of the many sacrifices our veterans have made throughout our history.



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3

Most Americans would agree that without the sons and daughters who've given of themselves to serve their country in the armed forces, the United States would not be the leader of the free world that it is today. In fact, without the commitment of those who've served in the armed forces, the entire course of human history most certainly would have been altered.

~~As Veterans Day 1988 approaches,~~ <sup>Veterans Day is a fine</sup> ~~it~~ would be appropriate for every

24

~~Pennsylvanian~~ <sup>American</sup> to pause and consider the sacrifices made by those who bravely answered the call. There is a lesson in each Veterans Day celebration that every American must hear. The lesson is one of being more like those who gave of themselves for America. If we join our comrades in the armed forces and give of ourselves for our country--through a variety of channels--then we can be in a better position to preserve America's heritage of heart, spirit and dedication. These are the very qualities that gave our veterans such a deep sense of national pride, both in years past and in the 1980s.

I recall an excerpt from the famous poem about Flanders Fields. It reads, "Take up our quarrel with the foe; to you from fallen hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high..."

5

That call, one from fallen veterans, is being answered today by proud and dedicated American servicemen <sup>women</sup> around the world. Those of us not in the military, however, can join in carrying that torch of freedom. We can contribute more to our neighborhoods, our communities and our society. We can recognize our special gifts and then give of ourselves for the benefit and betterment of our nation.

With Veterans Day 1988, let us promise never to break faith with those who've shown the way, and let us search and find in ourselves the heart, spirit and dedication that has helped so many give so much for our beloved country.



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 MAJORITY CAUCUS SECRETARY  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

What does Vet. Day mean to you?

What exactly is a vet.

Why do we honor our vet

- Commemoration come to mean women who have given time to protest our country
- day off from work - a vacation period
- a day when I think of older WWI Vets in uniform saluting the flag
- remember many who served - esp. those that made supreme sacrifice -

st - well I hate to admit it but I haven't given it much thought

Answers  
 after depend on

whether the person had military experience depends on age & what part of the country they live in



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11/11/1919 - Pres. Woodrow Wilson  
proclaimed Armistist Day

a day of remembrance to honor - 11/6, 1918 am. Civil WWI

<sup>54</sup>  
1954 - redesignated Veterans Day

to honor all Am. vet. long & short

in what ever war or period of years they  
served

Who are these vets

Someone who served in military

" who fought in a war or foreign soil

anyone who fought - Korea - Vietnam - Gulf -  
WW I - WW II -