

Rep. E. Z. Taylor  
Veterans Day  
November 11, 2002

**Good afternoon/evening. I am honored to be invited to speak here today on behalf of the brave veterans who have served our nation so unselfishly throughout the years.**

**Veterans Day is holiday that can't possibly be observed only once a year. Too many veterans have fought and died for our country that they deserve our utmost respect always. For as long as this nation has been in existence peace has not come easily. But as citizens of this great nation we have learned that peace and freedom are two characteristics that we will never give up fighting for.**

**With the recent occurrences of social unrest, and war and terrorism more imbedded in the minds of most Americans, our country's military has taken on a new importance.**

**Because of our exceptional Veterans, future military personnel have respectable role models to follow. Veterans have set the outstanding military standards. In essence, we should not fear the conflict of TOMORROW because we have skilled and hardworking people TODAY who have been taught by America's finest.**

**Today is not just a reason for children to be excused from school nor adults to be home from work. It is a day that was set aside back on November 11, 1919, known as Armistice Day, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during WWI in order to ensure lasting peace. Beginning in 1954, the United States designated November 11 as Veterans Day to honor veterans of all U-S wars.**

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**As Americans you have not forgotten the meaning of Veterans Day just by being here today. There are still ceremonies, speeches and moments of silence for the soldiers who have fought so hard for peace.**

**Veterans have allowed beautiful colors of red, white and blue to float freely in the wind. Their holy blood was shed so future generations could live in a free country.**

**Veterans have made serving our country neither a career nor an occupation but a way of life. These men and woman are brave, strong and dedicated citizens that our country will forever be indebted to. Let's celebrate the sacrifices outstanding veterans have given to make our country stronger. I salute their heroic feats. Happy Veterans Day!**