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# *History of Veterans Day*

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Veterans Day is one of the most special federal holidays in the United States and it is observed annually on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The name of the holiday may have many individuals believed that Veterans Day is for honoring the soldiers who gave their lives for America, Veterans Day is the day to honor both the dead soldiers and the ones who are serving in the military, as well as the ones who have retired from the life of a hardworking soldier.

Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day. On June 28<sup>th</sup> of 1919, the Allied and associated powers and Germany signed the Versailles Treaty in Paris Peace Conference. The Versailles Treaty was an official way to notify the world of ending a four-year war. However, the

Allied nations and Germany had put down their weapons and ceased hostility acts toward each other on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1918, or as known as the eleventh hour of the eleventh days of the eleventh month, the people decided to name the day – Armistice Day. Moving onto November 11<sup>th</sup> of 1919, President Wilson declared the ceremony of the Armistice Day by saying “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...” (History of Veterans Day) However, the definition of Armistice Day until this moment was only to honor the veterans in World War I.

It was not until May 13<sup>th</sup> of 1938 that Armistice Day was made to be a legal holiday (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a). The reason for the important declaration was because of a massive number of soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen in the Nation was mobilized to fought in World War II. At the 83<sup>rd</sup> Congress, there are several veterans service organizations who saw the necessary to change the name from *Armistice* to *Veterans* after seeing that many American forces had to fought aggression in Korea. On June 1<sup>st</sup> of 1954, November 11<sup>th</sup> became a day to remember and to honor American veterans of all wars.

Veterans play an important part to the United States. The veterans spend their time to dedicate into keeping the country safe. Throughout the history of America, the military comrades have been working tirelessly to maintain the precious liberty as well as the cultural values of the great nation. However, when the time comes for the ones who have finished their duty, it does not mean that the veterans will neglect their duty even if they do not have their uniform on. The veterans are the offspring with an ultimate patriotism, they will continue to serve the country by

many means, through becoming nation's leader, scientists, entrepreneurs. The veterans carry the experience they have learnt while serving in the military and they continue to build up and strengthen the community by the lessons they have learnt.

### Veterans Day Moment of Silence

On Veterans Day, there is a Moment of Silence calls on all Americans. The Silence Moment is only two minutes beginning at 3:11pm Atlantic standard time. The purpose of this call is to remember the service and the sacrifice of veterans throughout the history. The chosen of the specific 3:11pm was because in 1918, the Allied nations and Germany ceased their weapons against each other.

### Did you know?

Memorial Day is different from Veterans Day. Veterans Day is to honor the veterans in war and peace time. Memorial Day is to remember the soldiers who gave their lives to protect the great nation.

### Source

Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. "History of Veterans Day." *Go to VA.gov*, 20 Mar. 2006, [www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp).

"Veterans Day 2021: Military Benefits." *MilitaryBenefits.info*, 22 Mar. 2021, [militarybenefits.info/veterans-day/](http://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day/).