

Veterans Day

Every holiday is an opportunity for celebration. There are decorations, food, and family, but every holiday also has a deeper reason for celebrating. Veterans Day should be considered one of the most important holidays for Americans, as the reason for celebrating is the people who help protect our right to do so. On Veterans Day, we honor and thank anyone who has served in the United States Military, both living and deceased. The freedoms we enjoy in America can often face external threats. It's the duty of those wearing a military uniform to protect and defend all that we stand for as a country. This is not something we should take for granted; in fact, it's something we should celebrate every day.

The first Veterans Day was celebrated on November 11, 1919, and was established by Woodrow Wilson to commemorate the end of World War I exactly one year before. It was actually called Armistice Day, but after World War II and the Korean War, it was changed to celebrate all veterans and thus renamed. It was President Dwight D. Eisenhower who signed the legislation that changed the name to Veterans Day in 1954. Eisenhower also delivered the first Veterans Day Proclamation on October 8 of that year, saying, "In order to insure proper and widespread observation of this anniversary, all Veterans, all Veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose." Veterans Day is always celebrated on November 11, no matter the day of the week. As it is a federal holiday, many offices and businesses close. Other businesses offer free or discounted services to veterans as a way of showing their appreciation. Communities host events such as parades and ceremonies.

This holiday is something for Americans to be truly united about. Regardless of different opinions, views, and situations, we can all agree on the admirable qualities of a veteran. They have strong patriotism and show great sacrifice. They are brave, loyal, and committed. A veteran

is a special kind of person, one who our country can always be proud of. The celebration of Veterans Day is really up to the people. It's the people's rights that are being protected, it's our values that veterans defend, it's our freedom they fight for, and we are the citizens of America just as they are. We have to give this holiday, and the people it celebrates, the honor they deserve. Whether it's grabbing a meal with a veteran, making a donation to an organization that supports veterans, or simply writing a thoughtful note, we can all find ways to thank a veteran on Veterans Day.