



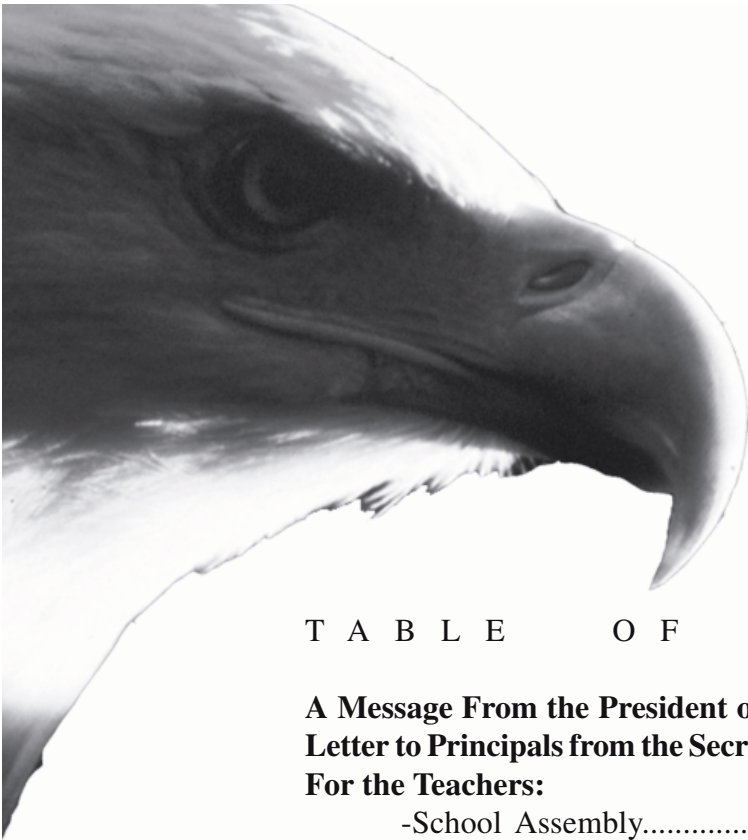
*Freedom  
has always  
been worth  
fighting for.*

# Honoring All Who Served

## Veterans Day

November 11, 2004





## T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

<b>A Message From the President of the United States</b> .....	1
<b>Letter to Principals from the Secretary</b> .....	2
<b>For the Teachers:</b>	
-School Assembly.....	4-5
-Classroom Activitiy Guide.....	6-9
<b>Handouts For Older Students (8-12th grade):</b>	
-America's Living Veterans.....	11
-History of Veterans Day.....	12-13
-Scholarships.....	14-15
-Veterans History Project.....	16
-Special Events.....	17
-Respecting the Flag.....	18-19
-Department of Veterans Affairs Seal.....	20
<b>Handouts For Younger Students (4-7th grade):</b>	
-Veterans Day Five Questions.....	22
-Who is a Veteran (A Play!).....	23-25
-Let Us Solemnly Remember.....	26
-What and When?.....	27
-Ellenor's Maze.....	28
-Word Search.....	29
-How Can I Get Involved?.....	30
-Why Do We Honor Veterans?.....	31
-Respecting the Flag.....	32-34
<b>Coloring Book</b> .....	35-39
<b>Special Thanks</b> .....	40

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee are pleased to provide this Teachers Resource Guide. It is our hope that by thanking America's veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, we can reward them with the honor they so richly deserve.



**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

I send greetings to students and teachers observing Veterans Day in our Nation's schools.

As Americans, we look to our veterans as examples of honor and patriotism. Throughout our history, loyal citizens have assumed the duty of military life and built a great tradition of courageous and faithful service. From World War I and World War II, to the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, to the recent battles against terror in Afghanistan and Iraq, our troops have made our country safer and brought freedom to people around the world.

On Veterans Day, we honor those who have served and sacrificed for the cause of liberty. We continue to draw inspiration from their heroism and dedication. These brave patriots have strengthened our country and made the world a better place. I encourage all students to continue learning about our Nation's history and our veterans.

Mrs. Bush joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable Veterans Day observance. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barack" or similar, written in a cursive style.



# VETERANS DAY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 11



## VETERANS DAY NATIONAL COMMITTEE

### HONORARY CHAIRMAN

HON. GEORGE W. BUSH  
President of the United States

### CHAIRMAN

HON. ANTHONY J. PRINCIPI  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

### VICE CHAIRMAN

HON. CYNTHIA R. CHURCH  
Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

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Secretary of Defense

HON. ARLEN SPECTER, Chairman,  
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

HON. BOB GRAHAM, Ranking Member,  
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Chairman,  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

HON. LANE EVANS, Ranking Democratic Member,  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

### MEMBERS

Non Commissioned Officers Association of the USA  
The American Legion  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association  
Marine Corps League  
Military Chaplains Association of the USA  
Women's Army Corps Veterans Association  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Legion of Valor  
Military Order of the World Wars  
The Retired Enlisted Association  
Congressional Medal of Honor Society  
Disabled American Veterans  
The Retired Officers Association  
Polish Legion of American Veterans  
Korean War Veterans Association  
American G.I. Forum  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Catholic War Veterans  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
AMVETS  
Blinded Veterans Association  
Army and Navy Union, USA

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

American Gold Star Mothers  
Fleet Reserve Association  
Gold Star Wives of America  
Veterans of World War I of the USA  
Veterans of the Vietnam War  
Blue Star Mothers of America  
Air Force Association  
Navy Seabee Veterans of America  
Air Force Sergeants Association  
United Spanish War Veterans  
State Directors of Veterans Affairs  
Help Hospitalized Veterans  
American Red Cross  
American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor  
National Association of State Veterans Homes  
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Dear Principal:

As citizens, we have a responsibility to educate our young people on the contributions and sacrifices veterans have made throughout the years. As a new school year begins, and another Veterans Day approaches, it is important to our country that we remember those men and women, past and present, who fought and who currently serve to preserve our freedom and the freedom of others.

This year marks the 51st Annual Veterans Day Celebration. On November 11, we recognize America's 25 million living veterans.

The enclosed package has the 2004 official Veterans Day poster and Teachers Resource Guide. This updated resource will provide information and ideas for your staff in elementary and secondary schools. Please use the enclosed poster as a visual aid for your school's celebration.

To assist with your lesson planning and to help your students gain an appreciation for the contributions America's veterans have made, the enclosed CD has a video featuring actress and entertainer Jennifer Love Hewitt; a video highlighting youth volunteer opportunities with VA's Voluntary Service; and veteran interviews recounting historic moments titled "The Face Behind the File." We hope you will use these resources to educate students about the significance of Veterans Day. For more information on Veterans Day, please visit our website at <http://www.va.gov/vetsday>.

Please join us in celebrating this year's Veterans Day. By teaching our students, we honor and remember those men and women whose selfless sacrifices ensure the freedoms we enjoy today.

Thank you for your willingness to support our efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony J. Principi  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Enclosures



**2004**

*Veterans Day*  
**Teachers Guide**

**Department of  
Veterans Affairs**



## School Assembly

### **The School Assembly:**

Because the weather can be quite cold in November in many parts of the country, an indoor assembly is far more sensible than one that would take place outside, eliminating the need to have foul weather contingency plans.

The scope of such a program may be large enough to permit invitations to the community at large, to include local veterans groups. Students can be encouraged to bring family members that are veterans (especially grandparents) or currently in the Armed Forces.

### **Inviting local veterans groups:**

Inviting local veterans groups can make assembly programs far more exciting and meaningful for students. Students tend to better understand and absorb the significance of Veterans Day when they can attach a human face to it.

In addition, veterans groups often put on very exciting shows. From stirring renditions of the National Anthem and Taps to thrilling speeches and stories, veterans, as guests, will both entertain and educate students with enthusiasm.

Veterans groups in your area can be found through your local veterans service organization chapters and VA hospitals. You might be surprised at how many veterans live in your area. Schools that send out invitations often end up with former generals and admirals, Medal of Honor recipients and other distinguished guests coming to speak.

### **Program Guide:**

Undoubtedly, your school will want to put on a program worthy of all these distinguished guests. The following are some suggestions and a sample program guide that will make this Veterans Day memorable for both students and special guests:

**Prelude and Posting of Colors** — As the audience enters to be seated, a school or community musical organization may offer several appropriate selections. A procession and posting of the Nation's colors (the American flag) is always a stirring event. Local veterans service organizations often participate in such programs with their impressive array of military banners and American flags.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and singing of the National Anthem** — The program chairperson, school principal or student body president, should invite the audience to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem.



## School Assembly

**Introductory Remarks** – Brief introductory remarks set the tone for the program. Consider reading the President’s Veterans Day Proclamation, which the White House issues and posts on the Internet shortly before Veterans Day. For more information, go to the Web site at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov). Additional remarks and suitable quotations for speeches can be found on the Veterans Day web page or use any of the quotes featured in this guide.

**Introduction of Guests** – Introduce any special guests, which might include local government officials, school alumni with distinguished military service, veterans from the community who represent different periods of service and faculty members who are veterans.

**Principal Speaker** – Your principal speaker should be invited far enough in advance to allow adequate preparation for your program.

**Special Musical Selection** – A band or choral group could offer one of the more impressive patriotic selections available.

**Student Essay or Reading** – By including various presentations by individual pupils in school programs, students body participation may be increased. Selected essays from class or school-wide competitions may be offered by the student-author. A reading by a student of a well-known patriotic address by an American President or military hero is also effective. There are a number of published musicals/narratives which can enhance your program. A short play or skit performed by the younger students can be exciting as well. One such play is included in the section for younger students.

**Moment of Silence, Taps** – While Veterans Day is primarily a tribute to America’s living veterans, and is typically observed more as a celebration than as a somber remembrance (Memorial Day), it is always appropriate to include a moment of respect for those who gave their lives for their country. The signing of the World War I Armistice took place in a railway coach near the battle zone in France. The bugles sounded “cease firing” and the hostilities ended, marking a most significant moment in world history. Although 11:00 a.m. remains a traditional hour for this type of tribute, a moment of silence is appropriate at any point in the program. This may be followed by a rendition of “Taps.” For more information on the history of Taps please visit [www.tapsbugler.com](http://www.tapsbugler.com).

**Closing** – The Master of Ceremonies announces “Retire the Colors.” Accompanied by appropriate music, such as a John Philip Sousa march, the Colors are paraded out of the assembly area. This concludes the ceremony.



## Classroom Activity Guide

### School Newspaper

Veterans Day stories can be featured in school publications. Publish a roster of faculty members who are veterans. Describe Veterans Day activities being held in classrooms throughout the school.

### Poster Contest

The creative talents of students can be encouraged through participation in a school-wide Veterans Day poster contest. Winners should be appropriately recognized and awarded certificates. Local newspapers should be invited to photograph the winning entries.

### Flag-Raising Ceremony

Weather permitting, outdoor flag-raising ceremonies highlight an activity that occurs daily at many schools, but often goes unnoticed. Such a ceremony, although brief, should include the Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of the National Anthem. A special guest may be invited to participate.

### Messages for Veterans

One of the most personal and meaningful Veterans Day activities for students is to send notes or cards to hospitalized veterans or those living in veterans homes. Students can design and send individual notes or cards or work together as a group to send an oversized card or poster signed by all of the students in a class. The cards and posters then can be mailed in one large envelope to the nearest VA medical center or state veterans home.

Addresses for state veterans homes and VA medical centers in your area can be found in the blue government pages of the telephone book. There also is a link to the VA facility locator on the Veterans Day Web page [www.va.gov/vetsday](http://www.va.gov/vetsday). Envelopes sent to medical centers should be addressed to "Voluntary Service Director" and those sent to veterans homes should be addressed to "Administrator."







## Classroom Activity Guide



### **Musical Program**

Veterans Day offers an excellent opportunity for school or community musical organizations to display their talents. A midday concert at the school or at a central location in the community may be especially dedicated to Veterans Day. An innovative program might include selections known to have been popular during America's wars.

### **Library Activities**

School or community libraries can prepare lists of recommended reading material suitable for Veterans Day. An appropriate display of book jackets or a special shelf containing selected publications can be used to call attention to the project. For more ideas, go to the Library of Congress Web site for children at <http://www.americaslibrary.gov>.

### **Football Games**

Veterans Day is observed at the time of year when schools and clubs are engaged in the football season. The presentation of the colors and playing of the National Anthem may be keyed to Veterans Day by an appropriate public address announcement. Halftime presentations by school bands afford an ideal opportunity to offer special patriotic selections and marching routines. Card section displays may also be used to spell out phrases such as "Thank You Veterans" or "Veterans Day" in stadium stands to visually recognize those who served on Veterans Day.

### **School Cafeteria Activities**

Patriotic decorations in school dining areas add a colorful reminder of Veterans Day. One could create special menu items such as decorated cupcakes or cookies. Download VA's Veterans Day 2004 poster from the web site for placement in the cafeteria, in classrooms and on school bulletin boards.





## Classroom Activity Guide

### Writing Assignments

Veterans Day themes can be included in writing assignments. Assign students to write about accounts of military service told by local veterans. Assign students to investigate the various benefits offered to veterans by government agencies. Write about veterans who are receiving educational benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Describe various veterans memorials which may be located nearby.

### Uniforms and Emblems

The colorful and varied uniforms and emblems worn by members of the Armed Forces throughout our history offer students of all ages ideal subjects to draw and paint. Elementary school children enjoy opportunities to create and exhibit costume items. Making colored construction paper hats representing various military eras is a modest and effective way of interesting pupils in Veterans Day subjects. The official emblems and seals of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard can be portrayed by students in a variety of methods, such as mosaics, applique, decoupage, as well as the traditional painting and drawing approaches.

### Movies and Documentaries

To introduce students to a particular war or period of service, show appropriately rated movies and documentaries as a starting point to discuss the history, politics and meaning behind each war. Consider bringing a veteran into the classroom to discuss his or her personal experience in service and how it compares to what is portrayed in the movies.



#### Department of Veterans Affairs

Local VA facilities – medical centers, regional benefits offices and national cemeteries can serve as sources of information and speakers for Veterans Day programs. They can also provide contact with local veterans service organizations and arrange visits, tours and other special programs for students. To contact your local VA facilities, look under Department of Veterans Affairs in the federal government listings in the local telephone directory.



## Classroom Activity Guide



### **Patriotic Groups**

Local veterans, historical or other patriotic organizations may enliven Veterans Day programs by providing period-uniformed flag bearers, fife and drum corps, and other marching and musical units. These organizations may also provide speakers with unique military experiences to share. One of the most popular activities among students is to meet with local veterans during an assembly or in individual classrooms to hear veterans share their experiences and answer questions. The veterans can be relatives of students or members of local veterans service organizations.

### **Students' Relatives**

Ask students to research and list all their known relatives who have served in the Armed Forces. With more than 30 percent of the United States population consisting of veterans, their dependents and survivors, students may tap into a rich history going back as far as the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

### **Plays and Skits**

A short dramatic scene can make Veterans Day meaningful for students by providing an opportunity to perform historical research and use creativity to express their feelings about veterans. The script for a play written for elementary school students to perform can be found on page 25 of this guide.





- America's Veterans
- History of Veterans Day
- Scholarships
- Veterans History Project

- Special Events
- Respecting the Flag
- Veterans Affairs Seal



# America's Living Veterans

**World War I**

Living Veterans **Less than 200**

Total That Served **4,734,991**



**World War II**

Living Veterans **4,370,000**


Total That Served **16,112,566**



**Korean War**

Living Veterans **3,580,000**

Total That Served **5,720,000**



**Vietnam War**

Living Veterans **8,382,000**


Total That Served **9,200,000**



**Desert Shield/Desert Storm**

Living Veterans **1,889,000**


Total That Served **2,322,332**



**War on Terrorism\***

Veterans \*\* **76,288\*\*\***

Total That Served **865,341\*\*\***



**Total Living Veterans:  
25,255,288**

\*Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom  
 \*\*Service members who have left the military  
 \*\*\* As of 8/16/04.



## “A SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD”

In 1921, an American soldier—his name “known but to God”—was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery symbolized dignity and reverence for America’s veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an “unknown soldier” of the Great War was buried in each nation’s highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as “Armistice Day.”

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But in 1939, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered that dream. Of the 16 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, more than 400,000 died.

## “TO HONOR VETERANS OF ALL WARS”

Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama organized a "Veterans Day" parade for that city on November 11, 1947, to honor all of America's veterans for their loyal service. Later, U.S. Representative Edward H. Rees of Kansas proposed legislation changing the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor all those who have served America in all wars.

In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day, and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace. He issued a Presidential Order directing the head of the Veterans Administration, now the Department of Veterans Affairs, to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day. In addition to fulfilling that mission, the committee oversees the annual production and distribution of the Veterans Day Poster and this Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide.

In 1968, Congress moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. However, it became apparent that the November 11 date was historically significant to a great many Americans. As a result, Congress formally returned the observance of Veterans Day to its traditional date in 1978.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11 at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m., a color guard, made up of members from each of the military services, renders honors to America's war dead during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds "Taps." The balance of the ceremony, including a "Parade of Flags" by numerous veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the Veterans Day National Committee supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow.

Congress formally returned the  
observance of Veterans Day to its  
traditional date in  
**1978**





“In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

# Scholarships

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship is offered to a direct descendant of a Purple Heart recipient (spouse, children, grandchildren, natural, adopted and or step) are all eligible. Qualifications are proof of the Purple Heart, 3.5 GPA and a full time student at a College/University or Trade School. Please visit thier web site at, [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org) . It is located in the list of links at the bottom of thier home page under “Scholarship Information and Application.”

The Military Officers Association of America provides scholarships, interest free loans, and grants available to children of military personnel seeking their undergraduate degree. The online application is available in early November and information on the different programs may be found at [www.moaa.org/education](http://www.moaa.org/education).

The DAV Youth Volunteer Scholarship – The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship encourages young people to get involved in volunteer work to assist sick and disabled veterans. This program recognizes young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service program. Volunteers age 21 or younger, volunteering a minimum of 100 hours at a VA medical center during the previous calendar year, are eligible. Scholarships can be used at any accredited institution of higher learning; to include universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational schools, etc. Scholarships must be utilized in full prior to the recipient attaining the age of 25. Employees of the DAV national organization and their families are not eligible to receive a scholarship. Nominations for this award must be submitted by the Voluntary Services Program Manager at the VA Medical Center.

The VFW Veterans Tribute Scholarship is for sons and grandsons, daughters and granddaughters (ages 16 -18) of U.S. military veterans or military personnel. Competition is based on a 1,500 point total including the student’s grade point average, community service and involvement in VFW youth activities. The deadline is December 31 each year with the winners announced in January. Complete information and entry forms can be accessed at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

The Women’s Army Corps Veteran’s Association Scholarship recognizes relatives of Army Service Women. This scholarship is based upon academic achievement and leadership as expressed through co-curricular activities and community involvement. A \$1,500.00 scholarship will be given annually. The recipient will be notified by mail. The check will be forwarded to the acceptance institution. [www.armywomen.org](http://www.armywomen.org)



The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) offers the Kathryn F. Gruber Scholarship Program. These Scholarships are available for spouses or dependent children of blinded veterans. Blindness need not be Service Connected nor do they have to be members of BVA. Additional information is available at [www.bva.org](http://www.bva.org).

The Vietnam Veterans of America Mike Nash Memorial Scholarship is available to members of Vietnam Veterans of America or spouses, children, stepchildren, or grandchildren of Vietnam veterans who are deceased, missing in action, or killed in action. Applications must be received by June 30th of each year. Please visit [www.vva.org/mnashsch.htm](http://www.vva.org/mnashsch.htm) for more information.

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. offers a scholarship for students in good standing for at least one year. It is available for their spouse or their linear descendants to include adopted children, stepchildren, foster children and their immediate descendants. The applicant must be enrolled or accepted to a program of any post-secondary education. Additional information is available by calling 1-800-843-8626.

The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) offers 15 new scholarships (13 - \$900 and 2 - \$1000) each school year to the dependents of NCOA members. An information sheet and application can be obtained from our website, [www.ncoausa.org](http://www.ncoausa.org). The deadline for submission of application packets is March 31.

The LaVerne Noyes Scholarship is awarded on an annual basis to direct blood descendants of someone who has served in the U.S. Army or Navy in the World War I and who's said service was terminated by death or honorable discharge. The applicant must be a United States citizen who is a blood descendant of a United States Army or Navy World War I veteran, who served for at least four months prior to November 11, 1918, and whose military service was terminated by death or an honorable discharge. A recipient must be enrolled full-time in a degree-seeking undergraduate program. This scholarship is awarded on an annual basis. The dollar amount of the scholarship will be determined by the total number of eligible recipients and the funds available from the endowment each year.

## Writing Contests

The Voice of Democracy is a broadcast essay contest for students in grades 9 -12. Students are required to write and record a script on a patriotic theme. This year's theme is "Celebrating Our Veteran's Service." The essay, entry form and cassette or CD must be submitted to a local VFW Post. A total of more than \$2.5 million in scholarships and incentives are given each year. State competition winners are invited to Washington, D.C. to compete for \$145,000 in scholarships. Deadline for entries is November 1, 2004.

Patriot's Pen is an essay contest for students in grades 6 - 8. The entry, deadline and competition process is the same as the Voice of Democracy. Winners compete at the national level for \$68,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds.



# VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

Today there are 19 million war veterans living in the United States. Motivated by a desire to honor our Nation's war veterans for their service and to collect their stories and experiences while they can still share their story, the United States Congress created the Veterans History Project.

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress collects and preserve audio- and video-taped oral histories, along with documentary materials such as letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and home movies, of America's war veterans and those who served in support of them.

The Veterans History Project focuses on World War I (1914-1920), World War II (1939-1946), and the Korean (1950-1955), Vietnam (1961-1975), and Persian Gulf (1990-1995) wars. It includes all participants in those wars—men and women, civilian and military. It documents the contributions of civilian volunteers, support staff, and war industry workers as well as the experiences of military personnel from all ranks and all branches of service—the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. The Project greatly values and appreciates veterans' stories from additional combat arenas and those received will be processed as resources allow.

Check it out at <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>



**VA NATIONAL REHABILITATION  
SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Rehabilitation Special Events promote the healing of body and spirit. They motivate eligible veterans to reach their full potential, improve their independence, achieve a healthier lifestyle and enjoy a higher quality of life.

Each year VA sponsors four national events for U.S. military veterans served by VA medical facilities nationwide. Each program enhances physical, social and emotional well-being of veterans who participate. Veterans involved in these events and the hundreds of VA employees and volunteers who support them each year all share a strong sense of purpose and camaraderie.

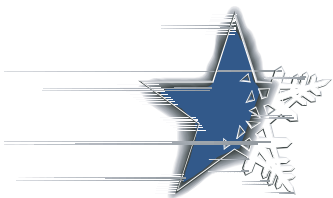
The four special events are the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, National Veterans Golden Age Games and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. To learn more about VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events, please log onto

[www.1.va.gov/opa/speceven](http://www.1.va.gov/opa/speceven)



*"The Winter Sports Clinic has made a big difference in my life. I believe that there is life after an injury, and the Clinic teaches you to adapt to your disability and to believe in yourself. I enjoy sharing with newly injured veterans what is possible."*

-Terry Livingston



Winter Sports Clinic



Wheelchair Games



Golden Age Games



Creative Arts Festival



## *Respecting the Flag*

“I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

### **Important Things to Remember**

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. If not in uniform, a person should remove his or her hat with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, with the hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

Display the U.S. flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff in the forenoon (sunrise until noon), then raised to its normal position at the top of the staff. When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way. The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days. Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.





# *Respecting the Flag*

## **Things Not to Do**

Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag. Never dip (lower quickly and then raise) the U.S. flag to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor. Never display the U.S. flag with the field of stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal. Never let the U.S. flag touch anything beneath it – ground, floor, water or merchandise. Never carry the U.S. flag horizontally, but always aloft and free.

Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free – never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below. Never fasten, display, use or store the U.S. flag in a manner that will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. Never use the U.S. flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling or use it for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything. Never place anything on the U.S. flag and never have placed upon it, or on any part of it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

The U.S. flag should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, and the like; printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, fire fighters, police officers and members of patriotic organizations. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff from which the flag is flown.



When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. Many veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.


# The Seal of the Department of Veterans Affairs

The Nike swoosh and McDonalds golden arches – corporate America calls them logos – symbols that automatically identify a business in the public mind. They are closely guarded and protected and worth millions of dollars. Symbols are just as important to government agencies. A Federal agency’s official seal, for example, carries the full weight and impact of the laws, resources and responsibilities vested in it by the American people.

VA’s current seal dates back to 1989 when the then Veterans Administration, an independent agency of the Federal government, became a Cabinet member agency (now the Department of Veterans Affairs). This brought many changes to VA, including a new VA seal.

The reproduction and use of the VA seal is specified by law (38 CFR 1.9). It is reserved for limited use as the symbol of governmental authority invested by the Department. The seal identifies all official documents, certifications, awards, publications, regulations and reports.

A design submitted by David Gregory, a medical media production specialist working at the Indianapolis VA Medical Center was chosen. He focused on traditional American symbols and his own innovative symbolism to visually convey VA’s special mission.



The five stars represent Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard

The eagle holds the cord to perpetuate the memory of all slain Americans and their sacrifices

The flag represents the span of America’s history from 13 colonies to present 50 states

The golden cord symbolizes those who have fallen in defense of this country



Veterans  
day  
Kids  
Packet



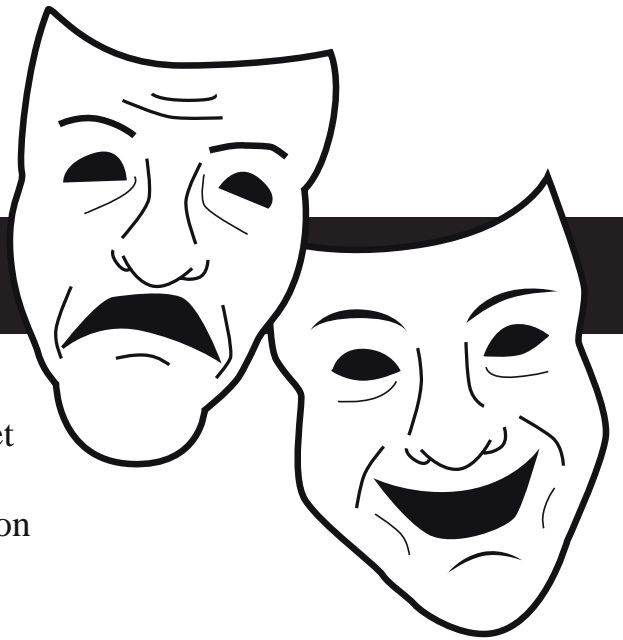


# The Veterans Day FIVE QUESTIONS:

- Who is a Veteran?
- What and when is Veterans Day?
- How can I get involved?
- Why do we honor Veterans?
- Can I have fun celebrating Veterans Day?



# Who is a Veteran? (A Play!)



**Introduction:** The following is a presentation set in a school media center where fifth grade students have been sent to do a research project on veterans and the Veterans Day holiday.

**Setting:** Table in Media Center

Student 1: Hey, did you bring your markers and paper?

Student 2: Yes. I have everything we'll need for our pictures and drawings.

Student 1: What are we going to draw?

Student 2: Silly! You know we're here to research veterans and the Veterans Day Holiday on November 11th.

Student 3: How do I draw a veteran? I don't even know what it is.

Student 4: A veteran is a "who" and not a "what." You'd better start by going to the dictionary and looking up the definition of a "veteran."

Student 3: What do you mean a veteran is a who?

Student 1: Go look it up! We can use the definition in our project!

Student 3: Is a veteran a person?

Student 2: Go look it up in the dictionary!

Student 3: All right! All right! (Student 3 pages through dictionary.) Here it is, "A veteran is a person who has served in the armed forces, an experienced soldier, especially one who served in time of war." and, "Veterans Day is a legal holiday in the United States honoring all veterans of the armed forces."

Student 1: See, a veteran isn't a "what," it's a person who died for our country. They're the ones that get flags put on their graves on holidays.

Student 4: No! No! No! A veteran isn't always someone who died in a war, or who even fought in a war at all.

Student 3: She's right. A veteran is a man who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force.

Student 4: Well, you're half right.

Student 2: What do you mean I'm "half right"?

Student 4: Well, women can be veterans too. Many women have served our country in the Armed Forces in times of peace and in times of war. Women can be veterans too.

Student 3: You mean a veteran doesn't have to have been in a war?

Student 1: No. Just having been in the Armed Forces makes a person a veteran.

Student 2: Wow! Veterans are really special people aren't they? I mean, if a person is in the Armed Forces and we have a war, then they have to go. Right?

Student 4: No, not really. Veterans are people who have already served, but are no longer in the Armed Forces of our country. My grandfather is a veteran. He was in the Korean War, and my uncle Jake is a veteran too because he was in the Navy.

Student 3: You know, veterans really are special people and they deserve to be honored with a holiday.

Student 1: There are a lot of patriotic songs that honor veterans and our country. Maybe we could include a song with our project.

Student 2: I think there's a song book over here that has all the words to patriotic songs.

Student 4: Great! Let's pick out one that everybody can sing along with.

Student 3: Veterans Day would be a good time to remember and to thank veterans for all they have done for us and for our country.

Finale: A patriotic song, such as The National Anthem, God Bless America, America the Beautiful, or God Bless the U.S.A., is performed by the actors or an assembled group of students. The rest of the students also may be encouraged to sing along.

**The End**

Special Thanks to:  
Ms. Maggi Call, a Title 1 teacher at Dunleith Elementary School,  
Marietta City Schools, Marietta, Georgia, for writing this play!

*“ Let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.”*

Dwight D. Eisenhower



# What & When

## Is Veterans Day?

Veterans Day takes place on the 11th of November every year. Veterans Day is celebrated all over the country with parades and celebrations. One big national celebration takes place at Arlington National Cemetery. During this celebration, the President places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. After this, a bugler sounds "Taps" which is followed by a parade that includes many veterans groups.

Veterans day takes place on the 11th because in 1918 on 11 a.m. of that day, World War I ended. That was the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month and became know as Armistice day, or was until a second World War broke out.

The first Veterans Day parade was held in 1947. A man named Raymond Weeks helped to organize it in Birmingham, Alabama in order to honor "All of America's veterans for their loyal service."

Then in 1954, President Eisenhower made Veterans Day a national celebration and so now every year on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, the President places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and all Americans honor those who have fought and died to serve our country!

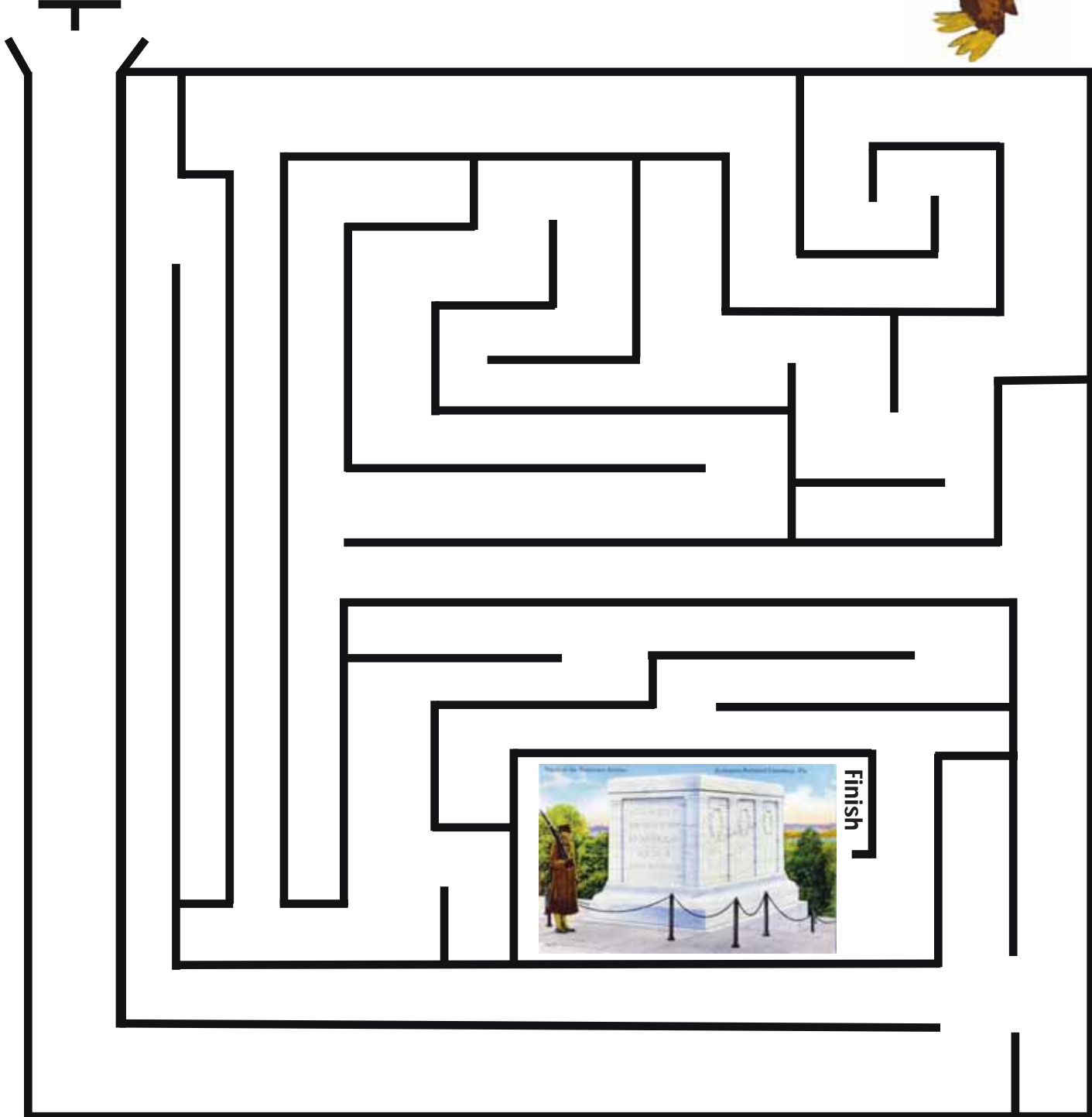


In 1921, after the end of World War I, an American soldier was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C. He was given a big funeral and buried in a large marble tomb, but he was no famous man, his name was "known but to God." He fought bravely in World War I, but when he died no one could figure out who he was. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery as a symbol for all those who lost family members in the war and were unable to bury their loved ones. His tomb now symbolizes our dignity and reverence for all America's veterans.

Help Eleanor Eagle get to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. She better hurry or Arlington Cemetery will close!



**START**



Veterans Day  
WORD SEARCH

V L M G Q B F A T M X O Z A E  
U E R F U P N G G D H U B C W  
V E T R A T W A N K M U R J E  
P J F E H H L N V A Q O V S C  
C S J E R F D A R I F N W K I  
M U M D S A U I I R O N O H F  
G S S O S B N O I A R M Y L I  
Y V I M B E A A S O L D I E R  
V O H T C D R A U G T S A O C  
A C R O O W C Q J F Z S G P A  
N D R E K I A S U V C B D R S  
M P B U H Y R R M D R F A M A  
S N P T N D N T Z B E S O F J  
L P L V R M K J A E T G Y L F  
N J J B I F N T F P C M N C Y

AIRFORCE  
COASTGUARD  
HERO  
NAVY

ANTHEM  
FLAG  
HONOR  
PATRIOTISM

ARMY  
FREEDOM  
MARINECORPS  
SACRIFICE

SOLDIER  
VETERAN  
WAR



## *How can I get involved?*

GET INVOLVED.....Make a difference

Tom Day, a Marine Corps veteran, is making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families by starting a non-profit organization called Bugles Across America (BAA). Day started BAA in 1999 to assist with Military Funeral Honors to eligible veterans due to a shortage of buglers. Encouraged by his father, Marine Col. Joe Day, he played TAPS at his first military burial at age 10 for a neighbor who died in the Korean War. The gratitude of the family struck a chord that was never forgotten. According to Day, "This is the last time a family has to say goodbye to their loved one. Whatever I can do to make it a special time for their veterans, I do."

### **Here's what you can do:**

In the past 37 months, Day has recruited 3,200 players in 50 states performing more than 37,000 funerals across the country. According to Day, The Department of Defense estimates close to 1,700 WWII and Korean War Veterans will die every day until the year 2008. Day buys secondhand instruments, has them repaired, and donates them to buglers who don't have their own horns. He collects dress uniforms and recruits horn players from school bands and Scout troops.



If a faculty member or student is interested in becoming a bugler, or you would like additional information, please visit

[www.BUGLESACROSSAMERICA.org](http://www.BUGLESACROSSAMERICA.org)





# Why do we Honor Veterans?

## **We Honor Our Veterans Because:**



"In each of America's struggles, heroes in uniform emerged to inspire and spur us on to victory. Our veterans' steadfast resolve to stand and fight for the American way of life is a constant reminder that the righteousness of our destiny overarches the anguish of our losses.

America's servicemen and women, who became our Nation's veterans when they set their uniforms aside and resumed their civilian lives, distinguished themselves through their willingness to risk life and limb in defense of the freedoms we all cherish.

I am honored and privileged to lead the Cabinet Department that was charged by Abraham Lincoln to redeem our Nation's debt to liberty's defenders.

Those who have served our Nation in uniform are the best people our society has to offer. We owe them our full support, and our sincerest thanks.

America's veterans did not shrink from battle; they did not yield to fear; they did not abandon their cause. All too often they paid the ultimate price.

By their example of courage under fire, they raised up a new nation, inspired by the dignity of the common man – a nation blessed with heroes and heroes' dreams. That is leadership of the highest quality. That is America's leadership legacy."

Excerpt from VA Secretary Principi's speech on July 2, 2003 at the National Young Leaders conference in Washington, DC.





## Respecting the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be given by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart.

Display the U.S. flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays. On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon.

Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.

When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way.

## Respecting the Flag

The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days.



Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag, place anything on it, draw on it or use it as anything but as a flag. Never display the U.S. flag with the stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal.

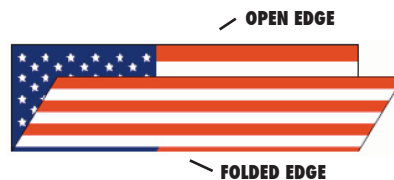
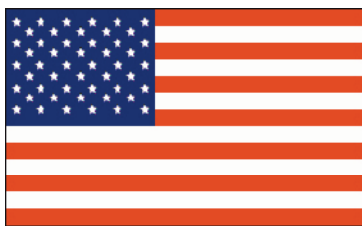


When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way. Many veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

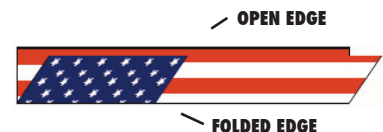


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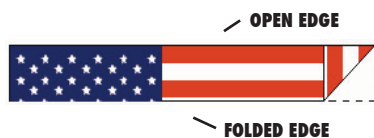
## Correct Method of Folding The United States Flag



(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.



(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.

## Fly Your Flag Regularly And Correctly



The U.S. flag, when carried in a procession with another or other flags, should be either on the marching right (the flag's own right) or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. Never display the U.S. flag from a float except from a staff, or so suspended that its folds fall free as though staffed.



When other flags are flown from the same halyard, the U.S. flag should always be at the peak. When other flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the U.S. flag should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag may fly above or the right of the U.S. flag (except flags of other nations; see below).



When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the U.S. flag should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergy's or speaker's right facing the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the speaker or to the right of the audience.



The U.S. flag, when displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the U.S. flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.



If displayed flat against the wall on a speaker's platform, the U.S. flag should be placed above and behind the speaker with the union of the flag in the upper left-hand corner as the audience faces the flag.



The U.S. flag should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.



When the U.S. flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff. When suspended from a rope extending from the building on a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first from the building.



When the U.S. flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground. The flag, when flown at half staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for a moment and then lowered to half staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day.



When the U.S. flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat, or so suspended that its folds fall free. When displayed over a street, place the union so it faces north or east, depending upon the direction of the street.

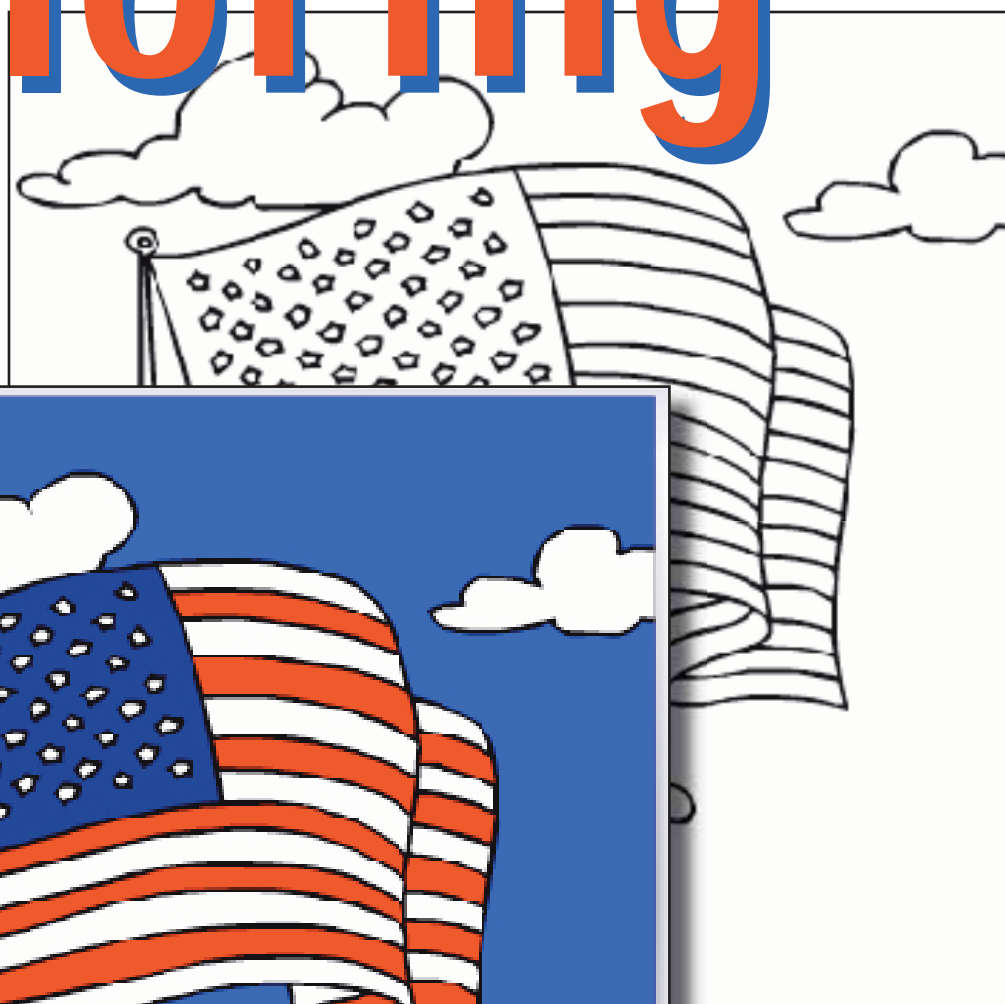


The U.S. flag should form a distinctive feature at the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.



During a ceremony when hoisting, lowering or when the flag is passing in parade, all persons should face the flag, stand at attention and salute. A man should remove his hat and hold it with the right hand over the heart. Men without hats and women salute by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute to the flag in the moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

# Coloring Book!

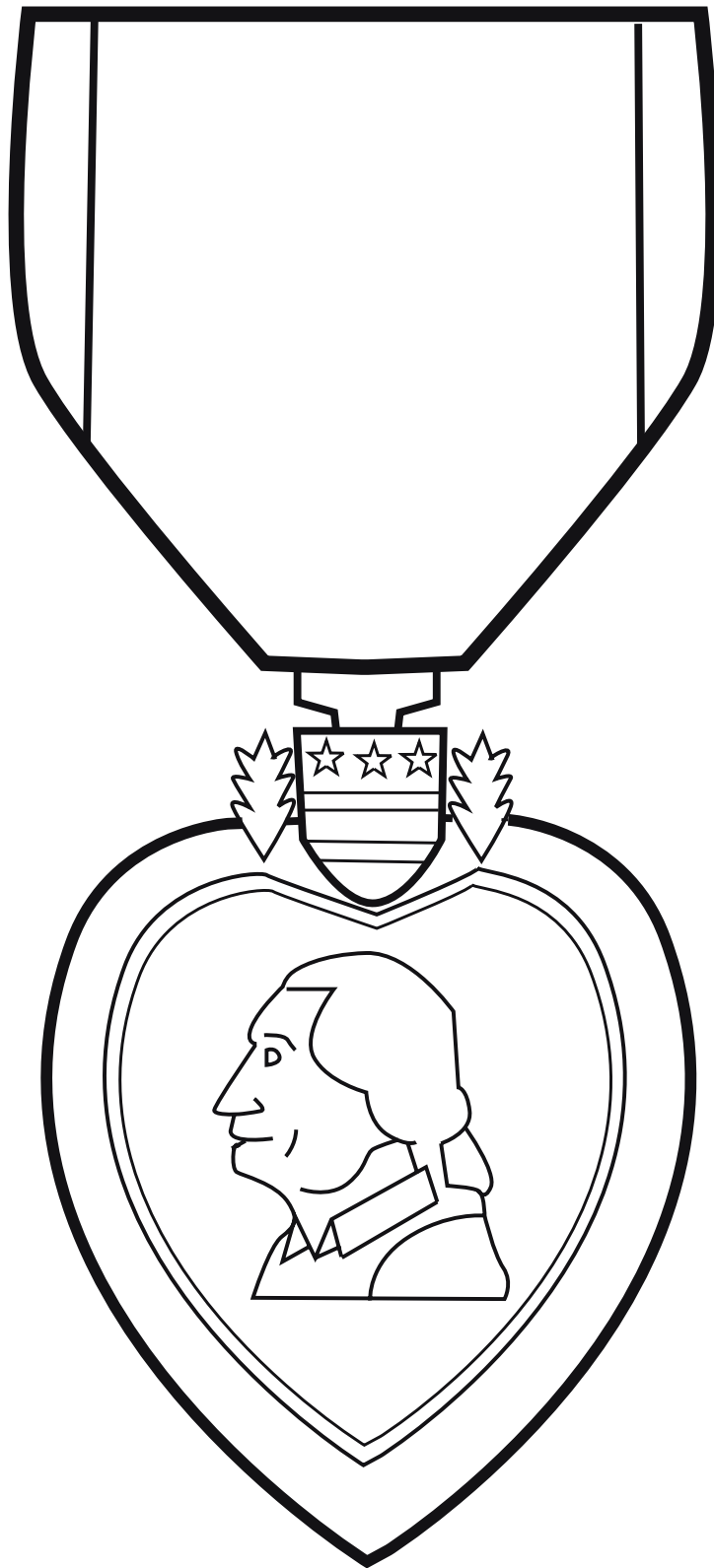


Color in your own medal and wear it in honor of  
our disabled Veterans



The Purple Heart is an American decoration—the oldest military decoration in the world in present use. It was the first American award made available to the common soldier. General George Washington initially created the medal when it was called the Badge of Military Merit.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy. It is presented to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die as a result of wounds received in combat. It is specifically a combat decoration.

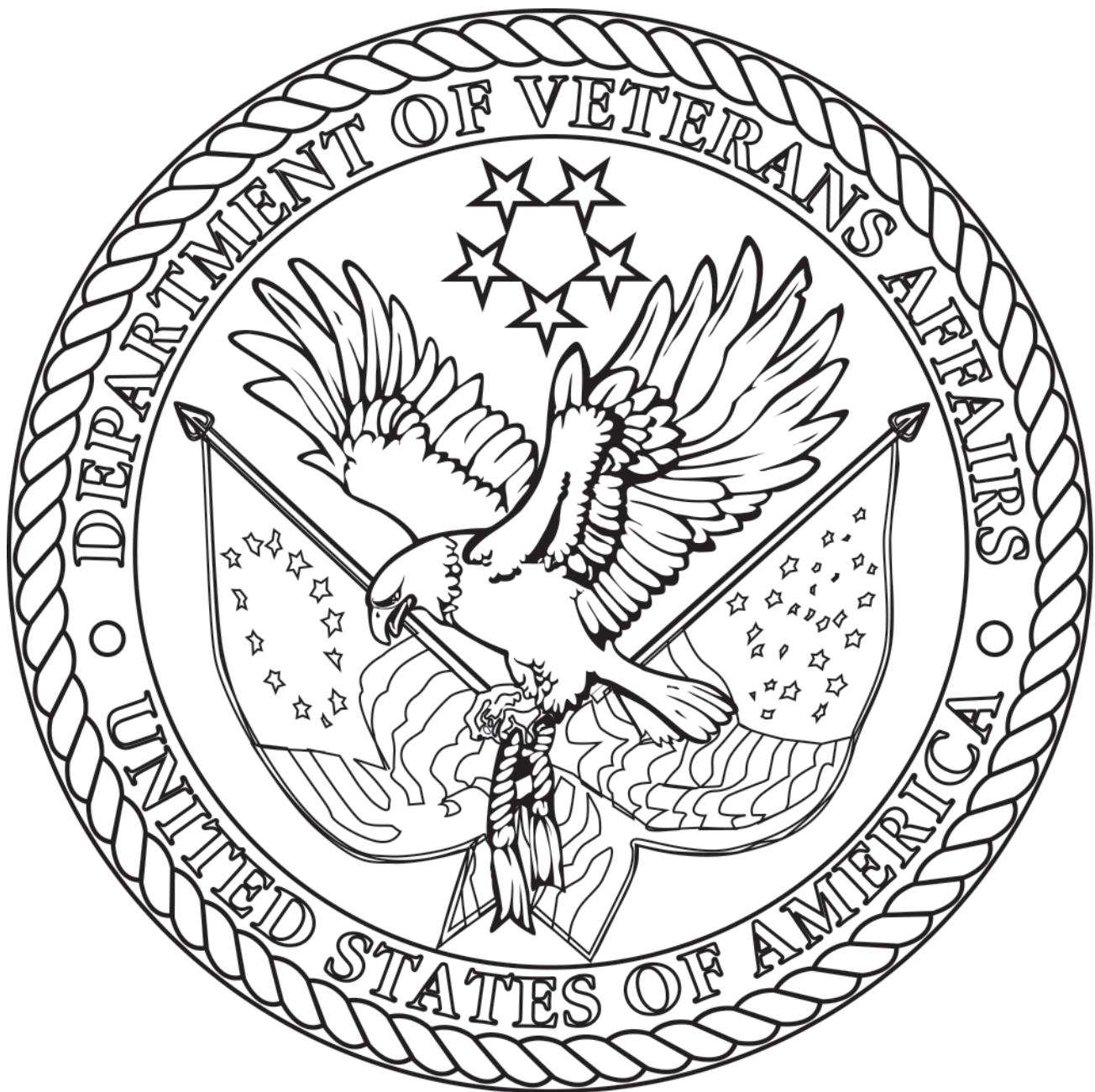


Sited from the  
National Order of the  
Purple Heart Website.  
[www.Purpleheart.org](http://www.Purpleheart.org)

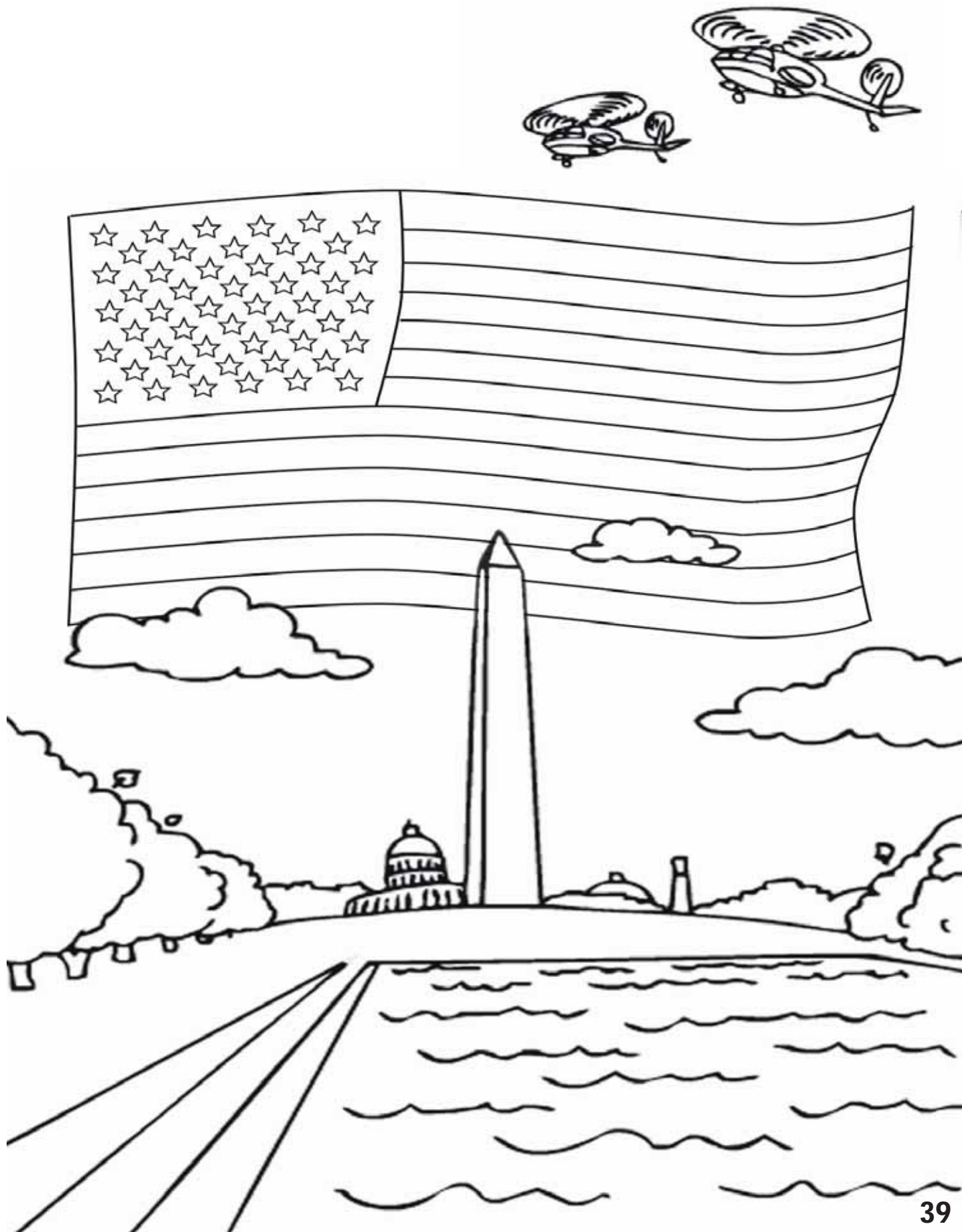
## The Seal of the Department of Veterans Affairs

The Nike swoosh and McDonalds golden arches are both corporate America logos. A logo is a symbol that identifies a business. They are closely guarded and protected. They are worth millions of dollars. Symbols are just as important to government agencies. VA's seal was made in 1989, by David Gregory of Indianapolis. He focused on traditional American symbols.

The two flags in the eagle's talons symbolize America's history from the thirteen colonies to the present fifty states. A golden cord, symbolic of those Americans who have fallen in service to their country, binds the flags. The cord is also held by the eagle to perpetuate the memory of those veterans who have sacrificed for our Nation. The seal's colors are derived from the American flag and the natural colors of the earth, representing our Nation's commitment to its veterans.







# SPECIAL THANKS TO: Veterans Day National Committee 2004

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