




A History of Veterans' Day


Veterans' Day is a national holiday designated to honor men and women of the United States who have served in the Armed Forces. Originally known as Armistice Day, it was first observed on 11 November 1919, the one year anniversary of the Armistice, or cease fire of World War I. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed a holiday 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. . ." That day there were speeches, parades and special religious services. At 11:00 a.m. (the exact time that the Armistice had originally taken effect) everyone faced eastward observing two minutes of silence in honor of those that had died during the war.


As America went on to fight in World War II and the Korean War, many felt that Armistice Day should be expanded to honor soldiers who had fought in those wars as well. So in 1954, Congress changed the holiday's name to Veterans' Day honoring all of our veterans.

Veterans' Day Trivia

Did you know that:

 The signing of the Armistice took place at 5:00 a.m. on 11 November 1918 in a railroad car northeast of Paris. It was signed by representatives from England, France and Germany and took effect six hours later.

 England and Canada celebrate Remembrance Day every November 11th, which honors soldiers that died in the two world wars.

 An Australian writer, George Honey, came up with the idea to honor those lost in the Great War by observing two minutes of silence at the exact time the Armistice went into effect. The idea caught on and many organizations still observe two minutes of silence every November 11th at 11:00 a.m.

