



At the 11th hour, on the 11th day, in the 11th month, in the year 1918, the “war to end all wars” came to an end. We commemorated the day as Armistice Day until 1954 when President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law legislation that named it Veterans Day, making it a national holiday to honor Veterans of all conflicts.

Today, approximately 23.2 million Americans are veterans. Of the 23.2 million veterans, consider for a moment that only 6 million served during peacetime, according to the US Census Bureau. America’s living Veterans span the spectrum of conflict from World War II to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Sadly, about 900 World War II Veterans die each day.

Each of us has the capability to honor our Veterans in a number of ways and in manners that suit our particular styles. If you are the type that would prefer to honor from a distance, you will find that there are parades in towns of every size on Veterans Day – spend an hour or two and enjoy the celebration.

If you prefer to interact, I suggest talking to a relative or friend who served; you will be amazed at the depth of passion many Veterans still hold for their particular branch of service. I truly enjoy asking our World War II Veterans about their service, it sparks a discussion that normally feels like it came straight out of a history book. I was told of an in-law, a private who served during the Korean War, who starts out most reminiscing conversations with, “I still remember my Captain.” It is those indelible memories that provide us a verbal history of our military past.

The new influx of Soldiers is expanding the ranks of Veterans from their service during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. They add a unique perspective to our nation’s fabric forged from an era of persistent conflict.

We also honor our Veterans through the U.S. Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2). The Wounded Warrior program is just one way that the Army is caring for our Soldiers and Families who have given so much. AW2 provides Soldiers assistance in getting back to duty or help in transitioning into a civilian status. This is a superb way to honor our Soldiers for their selfless service and sacrifice.

USASMD/ARSTRAT has three Wounded Warriors working at the headquarters: 1LT Kenneth Washington, Sgt. Ashley Hubbard, and Sgt. Sophia Malone. All are assigned from the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit in Huntsville. Kudos to each of these great Soldiers for continuing to serve.

The AW2 has a website where you will find several ways to get involved. The AW2 website lists points of contact available for individuals or organizations who want to help out, or for businesses who want to hire skilled Wounded Warriors, Veterans, and/or their family members. For more information, visit [www.aw2.army.mil](http://www.aw2.army.mil) or email [AW2stratcomm@conus.army.mil](mailto:AW2stratcomm@conus.army.mil) for information about events and opportunities.

Our Veterans, young or old, continue to serve. You see them in our communities working in the many trades that make this nation great. Whether you get energized by watching a Veterans Day parade or by engaging a Veteran in conversation; find a way to honor a Veteran this month, you’ll be glad you did.

*SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!*