

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

# Veterans Day

## 2024 Teachers Resource Guide



Download your  
free copy of the  
**OFFICIAL Veterans  
Day Poster**  
See page 4 for details



## A Legacy of Loyalty and Service

A Veteran of the United States is someone who has served on active duty in the Armed Forces, Public Health Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or Environmental Science Service. The Veteran must have earned any character of discharge other than dishonorable. *On Veterans Day, we honor the service and sacrifice of all Veterans – living and deceased.*

# Introduction to the 2024 Teachers Resource Guide

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee are pleased to provide you with this Teachers Resource Guide.

There are about 18 million Veterans living among us, in every state and territory and from every walk of life. Students in your class may be the son, daughter, cousin, or other relative of a Veteran or current service member. By engaging in discussion about these crucial members of our society, your students will be able to hear from and about those who helped shape U.S. history.

This resource guide, along with another group of America’s finest — our teachers — will allow your students to learn more about the role our brave Veterans have played in defending and preserving our nation. 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.

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## 2024 Veterans Day Poster

Each year, the Veterans Day National Committee publishes a commemorative Veterans Day poster. The poster is selected from artwork submitted by artists nationwide and is distributed to VA facilities across the country and to military installations around the world. It also serves as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery.

This year's poster is by Myisha B. Godette, from Queens, NY, U.S. Army, RET. For information about the inspiration for Ms. Godette's design, visit the Veterans day poster announcement webpage at [news.va.gov/133569/2024-veterans-day-poster-contest-and-the-winner-is/](https://news.va.gov/133569/2024-veterans-day-poster-contest-and-the-winner-is/).

Current and past Veterans Day posters are available for download from VA's Veterans Day Poster Gallery at [www.flickr.com/photos/veteransaffairs/albums/72177720300172803](https://www.flickr.com/photos/veteransaffairs/albums/72177720300172803).



# The Story of Veterans Day

**Veterans Day** is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military – living and dead – whether in wartime or peace. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who serve have sacrificed and done their duty.

While Veterans Day is often confused with Memorial Day, the two observances serve different purposes and have different histories. **Memorial Day**, which has its roots in the post-Civil War effort to “memorialize” all those who died in that war, has become a modern holiday to remember those from all wars and conflicts who gave their lives in service to the country. To ensure the sacrifices of America’s fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000 the U.S. Congress passed and the President signed into law “The National Moment of Remembrance Act” to “encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity” by encouraging and coordinating commemorations of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance. The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a two minutes of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Veterans Day, however, was first known as Armistice Day as a celebration of the resolution of World War I, a peace recognized historically on the date and time of that event, November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m., and salutes surviving service members as well as those who have passed away since their service.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to re-dedicate 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 (VDNC) 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 a Veterans Day poster and Teachers Resource Guide.

In 1968 in keeping with the Monday Holiday Bill, Congress briefly moved Veterans Day to the 4th Monday in October, but it became quickly apparent that the American public held fast to the historical significance of the First World War armistice on November 11, and in 1978 Veterans Day was returned permanently to its traditional date.

Hence, the Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11:00 a.m. E.T., a color guard made up of members from each branch of the military renders honors to America’s deceased Veterans during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. 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 Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

On October 7, 2016, President Obama signed the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act. The law requires that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a two-minute national moment of silence on Veterans Day at 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time, 2:11 p.m. Eastern standard time, 1:11 p.m. Central standard time, 12:11 p.m. Mountain standard time, 11:11 a.m. Pacific standard time, 10:11 a.m. Alaska standard time, and 9:11 a.m. Hawaii-Aleutian standard time.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the VDNC supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow. To learn more about the Veterans Day National Committee and the Veterans Day Regional Sites at [department.va.gov/veterans-day](https://department.va.gov/veterans-day).

# America's Wars



## WORLD WAR I

(1917 - 1918)

Total Forces.....	4,734,991
Battle Deaths.....	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	63,114
Wounded.....	204,002



## KOREAN WAR

(1950 - 1953)

Total Forces.....	5,720,000
Battle Deaths.....	33,739
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	17,672
Wounded.....	103,284



## GULF WAR

(1990 - 1991)

Total Forces.....	2,225,000
Battle Deaths.....	148
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	1,565
Wounded.....	467



## WORLD WAR II

(1941 - 1945)

Total Forces.....	16,112,566
Battle Deaths.....	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	113,842
Wounded.....	670,846



## VIETNAM WAR

(1964 - 1975)

Total Forces.....	8,744,000
Battle Deaths.....	47,434
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	32,000
Wounded.....	153,303



## Iraq War

(2003 - 2011)

Total Forces.....	192,000
Killed.....	4,507
Wounded.....	32,242

## Afghanistan War

(2001 - 2021)

Total Forces.....	800,000 +
Killed.....	2,461
Wounded.....	20,698

# POW and MIA

A Prisoner of War (POW) is any person captured or placed in prison (interned) by an enemy power during an international armed conflict. Missing in Action (MIA) is a person whose status and/or whereabouts is unknown. A known POW is not “MIA,” but a person “MIA” may be an unidentified POW. MIA status is often the temporary report until a servicemember’s whereabouts can be identified and his or her status confirmed. Sadly, some Servicemembers’ status becomes permanently MIA. Military POWs and MIAs are all Veterans.

According to the Pentagon’s Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), as of Aug 8, 2024, there are currently more than 81,200 unaccounted for U.S. personnel, including 72,044 from World War II, 7,465 from the Korean War, 126 from the Cold War, 1,575 from the Vietnam War, and six from Iraq and other recent conflicts. For current counts, please visit DPAA’s website at [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil).

The distinctive black and white POW/MIA flag was adopted in 1972 as the official emblem of the National League of POW/MIA Families. Congress has approved displaying the POW/MIA flag at all military and VA facilities.

In 2019, the National POW/MIA Flag Act was signed into law, requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown on designated federal properties, including the U.S. Capitol Building and the White House “on all days the U.S. flag is flown” and “in a manner designed to ensure visibility to the public.”

POWs and MIAs remain part of the Nation’s Veteran community, and they should never be forgotten, or their sacrifice considered less than that of any other Veteran of the United States.

Name	Captured and Interned	Died While POW	Returned to U.S. Military Control	Refused to Return
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	142,186	16,985	125,180	21
<b>World War I</b>	4,120	147	3,973	–
<b>World War II</b>	130,201	14,072	116,129	–
<b>Korean War</b>	7,140	2,701	4,418	21
<b>Vietnam War</b>	725	65	660	–



# The Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest award for military valor in action. Signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, The Medal of Honor was the nation's first valor Medal and remains at the top of the military's "pyramid of honor." The Medal represents the courage, integrity, sacrifice, commitment, citizenship, and patriotism displayed by those awarded it. Since its first presentation in 1863, just over 3500 Medals have been awarded, a very small percentage of the over 40 million individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces. As of June 2024, there were only 61 living Medal of Honor Recipients from all conflicts.

While the Medal of Honor is an individual, not a unit award, as a group, the Recipients will tell you that they wear the Medal for those who didn't come home and in honor of all those with whom they served.

## Awarding the Medal

The standards to award the Medal of Honor have evolved over time, but the Medal has always stood for actions "above and beyond the call of duty." The current criteria were established in 1963 during the Vietnam War.

The Medal is authorized for any military service member who "distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty

- While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party."

All recommendations require thorough reports on the act itself, the battlefield and its setting; at least two sworn eyewitness statements; and any other compelling evidence that can be gathered. Recommendation packets must be approved all the way up the military command structure, ending with the United States President as the Commander-in-Chief.

By Federal Statute, recommendations for the Medal must be submitted within 3 years of the valorous act and the Medal must be presented within 5 years. Any submissions outside of this timeline require an Act of Congress to waive the time limits.

To read the citations of any of the nation's Recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to access living history videos and additional reference material, see the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's website at [www.cmohs.org](http://www.cmohs.org).





# Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

In 1921, an American soldier – his name “known but to God” – was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and Washington, D.C. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery became known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The neoclassical, white marble sarcophagus depicts three carved Greek figures representing Peace, Victory, and Valor. Inscribed on the back of the Tomb are the words:

*“Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.”*

The Tomb sarcophagus stands above the grave of the Unknown Soldier of World War I. To the west are the crypts for an Unknown Soldier from World War II and the Korean War. A white marble slab flush with the plaza marks each crypt.

In the following years, thousands of people flocked to Arlington National Cemetery to pay their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which soon came to symbolize the sacrifices of all American Servicemembers.

In 1926, Congress established a military guard to protect the Tomb during daylight hours. Since midnight on July 2, 1937, the Army has maintained a 24-hour guard over the Tomb. Sentinels of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, “The Old Guard,” assumed these duties on April 6, 1948, maintaining a constant vigil regardless of weather conditions. For more information, please visit the Arlington National Cemetery website at [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Monuments-and-Memorials/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Monuments-and-Memorials/Tomb-of-the-Unknown-Soldier).



# School Programs to Honor Veterans Day

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 for foul weather plans.

Consider the bell schedule and school rules about visitors as you plan, and be sure to consider accessibility to program areas if you intend to invite Veterans, some of whom may be elderly or disabled. Also take school security restrictions into consideration as you plan your event.

The scope of such a program may be large enough to permit invitations to the community, to include local Veterans groups. If school rules allow, students can be encouraged to bring family members who are Veterans (especially parents, siblings, or grandparents) or who currently serve in the Uniformed Service.

## Inviting Local Veterans Groups:

Inviting local Veterans groups makes 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 to thrilling speeches and stories, Veterans will sometimes entertain and educate students. But they will also be pleased to attend as honored guests.

You can find Veterans groups in your area through your local Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities or regional offices. You may 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 Veterans as guest speakers. A listing of VSOs appears later in this guide. Or visit [www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp) for an online directory of Veterans' groups.



## Program Guide:

Undoubtedly, your school will want to put on a program worthy of all your distinguished guests. The following are some suggestions for a program that will make this Veterans Day memorable for both students and 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 colors (U.S. Flag) is a stirring event. Local VSOs often participate in such programs with their impressive array of military banners and U.S. Flags. School JROTC color guards also appreciate the opportunity to practice their skills and honor Veterans at such events.

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

**Introductory Remarks** — Brief introductory remarks set the tone for the entire program.

Consider having a student leader read the President's Veterans Day Proclamation, which the White House issues in advance and posts on the internet. For more information, please visit [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

Additional remarks and suitable quotations for speeches can be found on the Veterans Day website at <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/>.

**Introduction of Guests** — Introduce any special guests, who may 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.

**Student Essay or Reading** — By including various presentations by individual pupils in school programs, student body participation may be increased. Selected essays from class or school-wide competitions may be read aloud by the authors. The reading of a well-known patriotic address by a U.S. president or war hero is also effective. There are a number of published musicals/narratives that can enhance your program. A student-performed short play or skit can be quite entertaining as well.

**Moment of Silence, Taps** — While Veterans Day is primarily a tribute to America's living Veterans, it is always appropriate to recognize and remember those who gave their lives for our country. More than a century ago, World War I ended when an armistice – a truce – took effect at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918; thus, the saying that the war ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Although 11 a.m. remains a traditional hour for remembering our fallen heroes, a moment of silence is appropriate at any point in the program. This may be followed by the playing 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.

# Student Activities: Veterans Day 2024

Plan a school assembly to be held on Veterans Day and invite local Veterans. Present them with a small flag, flag pins, a medal, a traditional “poppy,” or other remembrance and honor them during the program. [*Poppies first became a symbol of remembrance for soldiers who died during World War I, since poppy fields grew where some of the battles were fought.*]

- Involve Scout groups to present the U.S. Flag and State Flag at an assembly on Veterans Day or at the morning flag raising.
- Discuss the meaning of what it means to be a Veteran. Create a short play with several students in conversation, talking about “Who Is A Veteran?”
- Ask students to bring a photograph of any family members who are Veterans and display them. Each photo could be displayed on a laminated sheet of paper with the Veteran’s service record, name, and the student’s name. These photos should be mounted on school walls in a significant area.
- Look up former students who are Veterans and display their pictures as described above, but incorporate the school colors, either as background or in a ribbon, attached to the picture.
- Students can share the stories of their family members who are Veterans, and whether it was difficult to obtain a photograph and service records.
- Involve the student government by asking them to research teachers and staff at the school who are Veterans. Honor them with something on their class or office door, such as a patriotic wreath or sign made by the art class.
- Hold a Veterans Day Breakfast for teachers and staff who are Veterans, or for local Veterans in the area.
- Hold a Veterans Day Poster Contest or copy a previous Veterans Day Poster or the current one and paint or color it. This could be blown up very large or create small ones to be colored.
- Challenge students to match military terms (i.e., “junior officer”) to a random list of definitions.
- Read the poem “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae. Discuss the poem’s significance to Veterans. Have students write a poem for Veterans Day and hold a contest for the best poems. These could be read at the school assembly or Veterans Day program.
- Draw pictures of poppies. Ask a local VSO for a supply of small poppies to distribute among the students.
- Write letters to Veterans and place small U.S. Flags at the graves of local Veterans.
- Research Armistice Day and why it was changed to Veterans Day. Research military campaign medals and ribbons.
- Assign small groups to research wars and conflicts, and give oral reports to the class.
- Set up a Missing Man Table during your assembly or Veterans Day event.

# Sample Lessons

## Exercise 1 - America's White Table

### OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Identify the different types of symbolism in America's White Table by Margot Theis Raven
- Identify the cause and effect relationship in the story
- Understand the significance of POWs (Prisoners of War) and MIAs (Missing in Action)

### Materials Needed:

- America's White Table by Margot Theis Raven
- Symbolism Flashcards (cut out and mixed, enough matching sets for even partners)
- Cause and Effect Graphic Organizer

### Introductory Activity:

Read America's White Table by Margot Theis Raven. Advise the students to take notes on the symbolism in the story, paying special attention to the specific colors and items mentioned.

### Whole Group Activity:

Have students share examples of the symbolism they noticed in the story (the upside-down cup, the red rose, the white tablecloth, salt and lemon, the empty chair, the black napkin, the table, and the candle).

After allowing time for discussion and making sure that all eight symbols have been mentioned, pass out one symbolism flashcard to each student. Place them on their desks upside down, and instruct the students to leave them that way until they are told otherwise.

Explain that the flash cards represent the eight symbols and that each student has either a picture card or a definition flashcard. Tell students they can flip their cards and stand up and walk around the room until they have found someone with the picture or definition that matches theirs.

### Small Group Activity:

Once the students have found their matching symbol and definition, they should sit with their partner.

Each student will receive the Cause and Effect Graphic Organizer. Working with their partners, they will fill out their graphic organizers. They should start with the main event (the middle box), then complete the cause side of the chart (left boxes) and the effect side of the chart (right boxes).

If desired, the entire class can work together to identify the main event before partner groups work together to identify the causes and effects.

### Concluding Activity:

Lead a class discussion about America's White Table and how the story relates to citizenship and patriotism.

### Assessment:

Class participation, graphic organizer

### Extended Activities:

As the class reads America's White Table, point out that the lyrics to "America" appear at the bottom of the book. Have students study the lyrics, looking for symbolism and figurative language. Students should write an essay about their findings.

Create a poster, reader's theatre or another type of visual image that represents POWs or MIAs.



This table, set for one, is small to show the frailty of one prisoner alone.



The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.



The black napkin represents the sorrow of captivity.



The single red rose in the vase signifies the blood that many have shed to ensure the freedom of the United States of America. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith, awaiting their return.



A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait.



The glass is inverted because they cannot toast with us.



The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope that lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.



And last, the chair sits empty, because they are not here.

## Exercise 2 - Writing Prompts

For each quote, explain the meaning in your own words:

“We defend, we avenge, we sacrifice, we bleed. And we are willing to die for this unique creation, the United States of America.”

“For the infantrymen in combat, there is nobility and purpose in their lives, and that is unique. But we don’t see ourselves as a people apart. We are America’s warrior class.”

“We fight so our children never have to. We fight for one day when our children and our enemy’s children can discuss their differences without fear or loathing.”

“Americans want this kind of country. Americans want this kind of world. And we stand ready to defend it, to protect us, so help us, God.”

Essay Prompt Why is it important to honor service members and Veterans on Veterans Day? Use examples from your T-chart and notes about the video to support your ideas.



# Respecting the U.S. 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 and 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 near 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 is 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 in a brisk manner; lower it slowly.

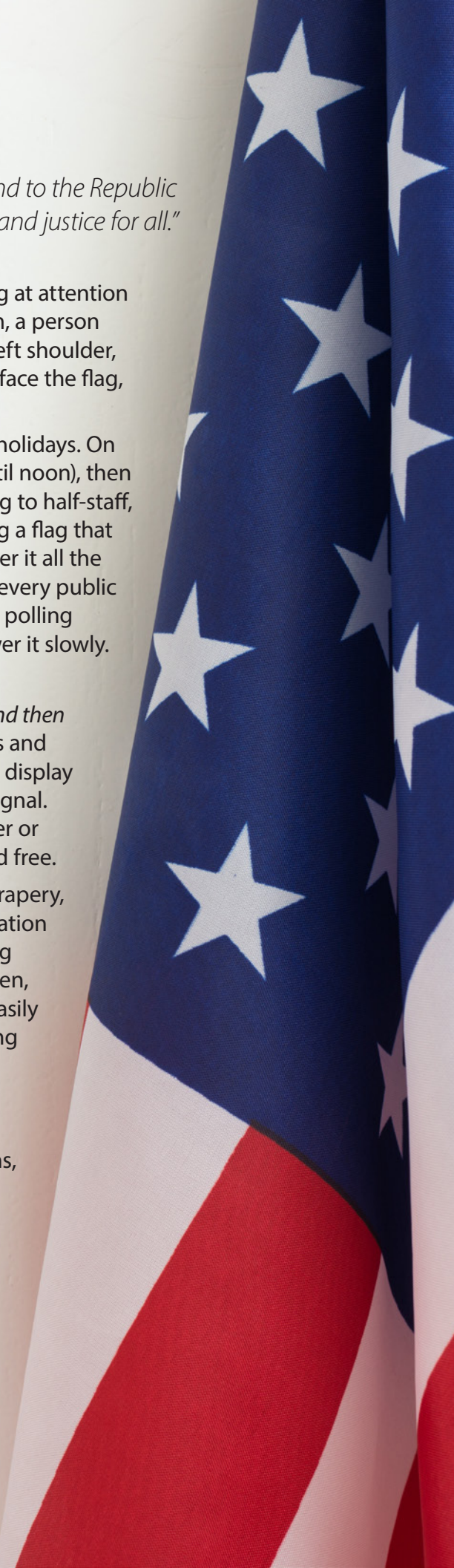
## Things to Avoid

**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. 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 discarded; 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.

Learn more about the U.S. Flag Code at [www.chamberofcommerce.org/usflag/uscode36.html](http://www.chamberofcommerce.org/usflag/uscode36.html).



# Folding the Flag

**W**hen the U.S. Flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner -- preferably by burning. Many Veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

When your flag isn't on display, fold it into a triangular shape and store in a safe place to show your respect. Here's how to do it:

## What You Need

A U.S. Flag and another person to help fold it.

Watch a "Flag-Folding Ceremony", performed during a Folds of Honor event in a video by KSDS [www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9d\\_lfw9G0A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9d_lfw9G0A).

## Meaning of Flag-Folding Ceremony

The U.S. Flag-folding ceremony represents religious principles that guided the founders of our nation.

The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars that represent our 50 states. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted only when draped as a pall on the casket of a Veteran who has served our country honorably.

In the U.S. Armed Forces, at the ceremony of retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's dead. The next morning it is brought out and, with the accompanying sound of reveille, is raised on the flagpole.

Flag etiquette is an important part of the American tradition that ensures the Stars and Stripes is treated with the dignity it deserves. Established by Congress in 1942, the official U.S. Flag Code created guidelines for the care and display of the flag. Although it does not describe an official method for folding the flag, the rules do state that you should never store a flag in a way where it can get torn, soiled or damaged. You should also never let the flag touch anything beneath it, such as the ground or floor.

Over time, a triangular shape has become the traditional way to fold the flag and store it in a safe manner. The exact origin of this specific procedure is unknown, but it may trace back to the Gold Star Mothers of America or the United States Air Force Academy.

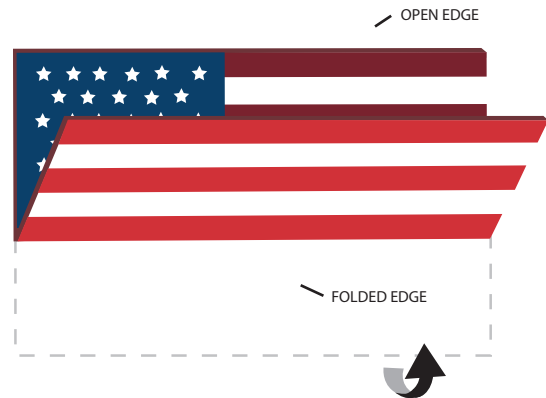


## Follow These Steps

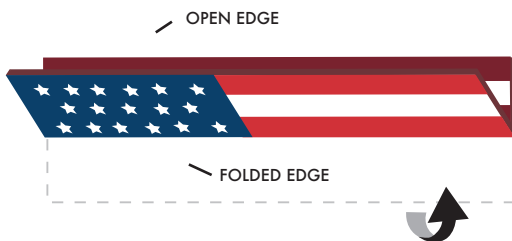
*Tip: As you're folding, make sure the crease is perfectly aligned. You can also smooth it out with your hand to get rid of any air bubbles.*



**Step 1:** Start by holding the flag at waist height with another person and stretch it out. The flag, at this step, should be parallel to the floor.



**Step 2:** Next, fold the bottom half of the section with stripes lengthwise. As such, the stripes will fold over and cover the field of stars. Make sure that both "folders" are holding the top and bottom edges securely.



**Step 3:** Then, fold the flag lengthwise once more. The blue field of the flag should now be on the outside.



**Step 4:** Bring the stripes corner from the folded edge to the top open edge of the flag to make a triangular fold.



**Step 5:** Now, form the second triangle by turning the outer end point inward and parallel to the open edge.



**Step 6:** Continue to make the triangle folds all the way until the end of the flag's entire length.



**Step 7:** Check that the completely folded flag showcases the blue field of stars. The red and white parts of the flag should be wrapped into the blue, like the light of day vanishing into the night's darkness.

# Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) are organized groups of Veterans who assist Veterans and their families and support them as advocates for a variety of Veterans' issues. Many organizations consist of members that share a common experience, such as those who served in the same military unit or period of war. The following is a list of organizations that serve on the Veterans Day National Committee. Many of these groups have chapters/posts throughout the country with Veterans who can share their experiences with younger generations.

## **Voting Members**

Air Force Sergeants Association  
 American G.I. Forum of the United States  
 AMVETS  
 Army and Navy Union, USA  
 Blinded Veterans Association  
 Catholic War Veterans of the USA  
 Commissioned Officers Association of the  
 US Public Health Service  
 Congressional Medal of Honor Society  
 DAV (Disabled American Veterans)  
 Fleet Reserve Association  
 Jewish War Veterans of the USA  
 Korean War Veterans Association  
 Legion of Valor of the USA  
 Marine Corps League  
 Military Chaplains Association of the USA  
 Military Officers Association of America  
 Military Order of the Purple Heart  
 Military Order of the World Wars  
 Non Commissioned Officers Association  
 Paralyzed Veterans of America  
 Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA  
 The American Legion  
 TREA: The Enlisted Association  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States  
 Vietnam Veterans of America

## **Associate Members**

Air & Space Forces Association  
 American Ex-Prisoners of War  
 American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.  
 Association of the United States Navy  
 Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
 Bowlers to Veterans Link  
 Enlisted Association of the National Guard  
 Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.  
 Japanese American Veterans Association  
 Marine Corps Reserve Association  
 National Association of State Directors of  
 Veterans Affairs  
 National Association of State Veterans Homes  
 Navy Mutual Aid Association  
 Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Inc.  
 Reserve Organization of America  
 Student Veterans of America  
 The American Red Cross  
 The Independence Fund  
 U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association  
 Wounded Warrior Project

## ***Emeritus Members***

American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor  
 Memorial Society  
 Battle of the Bulge Association  
 Women's Army Corps Veterans Association -Army  
 Women United

# Scholarships For Veterans Dependents

## Air and Space Forces Association (ASFA)

Scholarships are provided to Airmen, Guardians, their spouses, and their children to help fund college, flight school, dental school, Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings, and certain universities.

[www.afa.org/scholarships](http://www.afa.org/scholarships)

## Air Force Aid Society-General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program

The Hap Arnold Grants are awarded to selected sons and daughters of Active Duty, Title 10 AGR/Reserve, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired, retired Reserve, and deceased Air Force members for full-time undergraduate studies.

[afas.org/haparnoldgrant](http://afas.org/haparnoldgrant)

## American Legion

The American Legion offers a number of scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education.

[www.legion.org/scholarships](http://www.legion.org/scholarships)

## American Legion Auxiliary

The Auxiliary supports various scholarship programs that benefit Veterans, the descendants of Veterans, and The American Legion Family.

[www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships](http://www.legion-aux.org/Scholarships)

## AMVETS (American Veterans)

AMVETS offers scholarships/grants to our nation's Veterans, active duty, Guard and Reserves; their spouses as well as their children and grandchildren.

[www.amvets.org/scholarships](http://www.amvets.org/scholarships)

## Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)

The Scholarship Foundation, Inc. provides scholarship grants to the children and grandchildren of its members and deceased members who sought college-entry financial aid, as well as members who seek further education, spouses, and unmarried siblings.

[www.quad-a.org/scholarship](http://www.quad-a.org/scholarship)

## Association of the United States Army (AUSA)

AUSA offers scholarships for Premium Members, Association Members, and their dependents (to include children, spouses, and grandchildren).

[www.ausa.org/scholarships](http://www.ausa.org/scholarships)

## Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)

AUSN offers scholarships to students entering or already participating in an undergraduate program or accredited vocational/technical institution.

[www.ausn.org/scholarships](http://www.ausn.org/scholarships)

## Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)

BVA offers scholarships to spouses, dependent children, and grandchildren of blind and low vision Veterans to assist them with their higher education tuition.

[bva.org/programs/scholarships](http://bva.org/programs/scholarships)

## Chief Warrant Officers Association of the US Coast Guard (CWOA)

CWOA Scholarship Grant offers a monetary grant for an accredited institution of higher learning to dependent children of members in good standing or who were members in good standing of the CWOA, United States Coast Guard at the time of their death.

[www.cwoauscg.org/scholarships](http://www.cwoauscg.org/scholarships)

## Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation (CFPF)

CFPF provides college scholarships and educational counseling to military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty, including casualties from combat, training, illness, and suicide.

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

## Commissioned Officers Association of the US Public Health Service (COA/USPHS)

COA/USPHS offers a scholarship program to high school students sponsored by a member in good for pursuit of a career that may relate to any of the Public Health Service professional categories (e.g., physician, dentist, nurse, engineer, etc.).

[www.phscof.org/scholarships/family-member-scholarships/](http://www.phscof.org/scholarships/family-member-scholarships/)

### **Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)**

The FRA Education Foundation offers up to \$5,000 scholarships to deserving students pursuing trade school, community and four-year college, and graduate degrees.

[www.fra.org/fra/Web/Events\\_and\\_Programs/Education\\_Foundation\\_Scholarships/Web/Content/FRA\\_Education\\_Foundation.aspx](http://www.fra.org/fra/Web/Events_and_Programs/Education_Foundation_Scholarships/Web/Content/FRA_Education_Foundation.aspx)

### **Folds of Honor (FOH)**

FOH provides post-secondary educational scholarships to the spouses and children of service members disabled or killed as a result of their military service to our great nation.

[foldsofhonor.org/scholarships](http://foldsofhonor.org/scholarships)

### **Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America (JWV)**

The JWV National Youth Achievement Program is for high school seniors who are direct descendants of members of the Jewish War Veterans of U.S.A. to finance their college education.

[jwvusafoundation.org/home-page-2/grants](http://jwvusafoundation.org/home-page-2/grants)

### **Marine Corps Air Transport Association (MCATA)**

MCATA awards a limited number of academic scholarships to selected dependents of qualified members.

[www.mcata.com/scholarshio](http://www.mcata.com/scholarshio)

### **Marine Corps League (MCL)**

MCL offers scholarship grants to qualified applicants who are pursuing an undergraduate degree.

[www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Scholarship-Application-2024-MCL.pdf](http://www.mcleaguelibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Scholarship-Application-2024-MCL.pdf)

### **Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA)**

MCRA Education Trust provides 10 scholarships to graduating seniors of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC or Young Marine Program.

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

### **Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation (MCSF)**

MCSF provides scholarships for higher education to deserving children, stepchildren, and certain grandchildren of Marines and former Marines, with particular attention being given to children whose parent was killed or wounded in action.

[www.mcsf.org/apply](http://www.mcsf.org/apply)

### **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**

MOAA Scholarship Fund offers interest free loans and student grants to remove or lessen the financial burden of continuing education

[charities.moaa.org/scholarship-fund/aboutSF](http://charities.moaa.org/scholarship-fund/aboutSF)

### **Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)**

MOPH offers scholarships to the recipient of a Purple Heart, a direct descendant of a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart or of a Veteran killed in action or who died of wounds, or a spouse or widow(er) of a recipient of the Purple Heart.

[www.purpleheart.org/ScholarshipProgram](http://www.purpleheart.org/ScholarshipProgram)

### **MG James Ursano Scholarship Program and The Spouse Education Assistance Program**

The MG James Ursano Scholarship assists children of army soldiers in obtaining a 4-year undergraduate degree.

[www.armyemergencyrelief.org/scholarships](http://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/scholarships)

### **National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program (NHSC)**

The NHSC Scholarship Program awards scholarships to students pursuing an eligible training or degree program for a primary care health profession.

[nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships](http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships)

### **National Veteran Business Development Council Scholarship Program**

JROTC 50 State Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) students in all 50 states.

[nvbdcjrotc.org/about-the-program](http://nvbdcjrotc.org/about-the-program)

**Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)**

NERA provides scholarships to dependents (son, daughter, spouse) of those currently serving in the United States Armed Forces and to a spouse, child, or grandchild sponsored by a current NERA member.

[www.nera.org/Public/Public/NERA\\_Scholarship\\_2024.aspx](http://www.nera.org/Public/Public/NERA_Scholarship_2024.aspx)

**Navy League Foundation (NLF)**

NLF Awards scholarships to children and grandchildren of former members of the Sea Services and those currently serving and who are high school seniors who will attend college in the fall.

[www.navyleague.org/navy-league-foundation-scholarship-application](http://www.navyleague.org/navy-league-foundation-scholarship-application)

**Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)**

NCOA Scholarship Fund offers assistance to dependents of NCOA members to continue their education beyond high school.

[www.ncoausa.org/scholarship](http://www.ncoausa.org/scholarship)

**Reserve Organization of America (ROA)**

Henry J. Reilly Scholarship provides financial assistance for college or graduate school to members of the ROA and their children or grandchildren.

[www.roat.org/page/Scholarships](http://www.roat.org/page/Scholarships)

**The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)**

TREA scholarships are offered for the child or grandchild of a current TREA member in good standing, or of a deceased TREA member who was in good standing at the time of his/her passing.

[trea.org/TREA/TREA/Scholarships.aspx](http://trea.org/TREA/TREA/Scholarships.aspx)

**Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)**

TAPS Education Support Services offer scholarship information and benefits resources for military survivors to align resources and education goals.

[www.taps.org/edu](http://www.taps.org/edu)

**United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)**

USAWOA financial awards are offered to the children (natural and adopted), grandchildren, and dependent children of members in good standing to further educational endeavors.

[scholar.usawoa.org](http://scholar.usawoa.org)

**United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA)**

The CCCAF Scholarship assists dependent children of CPOA/CGEA members in defraying expenses incurred at a university, college, or vocational school of acceptance.

[uscgcpoa.org/resources/cccaf](http://uscgcpoa.org/resources/cccaf)

**University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)**

UMGC provides resources and guidance for navigating the world of scholarship offerings at UMGC, including the Pillars of Strength Scholarship.

[www.umgc.edu/tuition-financial-assistance/scholarships](http://www.umgc.edu/tuition-financial-assistance/scholarships)

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

The VFW offers scholarship for youth in grades 6-12:

Youth Scholarship 9th - 12th:

[www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education)

Patriot's Pen 6th - 8th:

[www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education)

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration

National Cemetery Administration

# Veterans Legacy Program

**The Veterans Legacy Program (VLP)** commemorates our nation's Veterans and Service Members through the discovery and sharing of their stories. VLP encourages students and teachers around the country to immerse themselves in the rich historical resources found within VA's national cemeteries.

We strive to memorialize Veterans in innovative and engaging ways. In this effort we work with educational organizations to:

- Train students to conduct research and bring to light the diverse stories of Veterans
- Design K-12 lesson plans based on the lives and experiences of Veterans and the history of national cemeteries
- Conduct teacher professional development

**VLP encourages students** to research and share the stories of Veterans from their local community. The research can be uploaded into the VA's **Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM)**, a digital platform dedicated to memorializing more than 10 million Veterans interred in VA's national cemeteries; VA-funded Veterans cemeteries; Department of Defense-managed cemeteries; National Park Service cemeteries; and private cemeteries within and outside the United States.

To learn more about VLM visit [www.VA.gov/remember](http://www.VA.gov/remember)

Contact the Veterans Legacy Grant Program at [VLGP@va.gov](mailto:VLGP@va.gov) for more information.

Follow us on Facebook



[www.facebook.com/VeteransLegacy](https://www.facebook.com/VeteransLegacy)



# 2024 Veterans Day National Committee

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## Members

Air Force Sergeants Association

Army & Navy Union, USA

Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS

Fleet Reserve Association

Legion of Valor of the USA

Military Officers Association of America

Non Commissioned Officers Association

The American Legion

Vietnam Veterans of America

American G.I. Forum of the United States

Blinded Veterans Association

Congressional Medal of Honor Society

Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Marine Corps League

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Paralyzed Veterans of America

TREA: The Enlisted Association

AMVETS

Catholic War Veterans of the USA

DAV (Disabled American Veterans)

Korean War Veterans Association

Military Chaplains Association of the USA

Military Order of the World Wars

Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA

Veterans of the Foreign Wars of the United States

## Associate Members

Air & Space Forces Association

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Enlisted Association of the National Guard

Japanese American Veterans Association

National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs

Navy Mutual Aid Association

Reserve Organization of America

The American Red Cross

U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association

American Ex-Prisoners of War

Association of the United States Navy

Bowlers to Veterans Link

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

Marine Corps Reserve Association

National Association of State Veterans Homes

Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Inc.

Student Veterans of America

The Independence Fund

Wounded Warrior Project

## Emeritus Members

American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society

Women's Army Corps Veterans Association – Army Women United

Battle of the Bulge Association

## Selected Additional Resources

African American Veterans Monument,  
[aavmwny.org](http://aavmwny.org)

American Merchant Marine at War,  
[usmm.org](http://usmm.org)

Arlington National Cemetery,  
[www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)

Arlington National Cemetery, Education Program,  
[education.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://education.arlingtoncemetery.mil)

Coast Guard Historian's Office,  
[www.history.uscg.mil](http://www.history.uscg.mil)

Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service,  
[www.usphs.gov/history](http://www.usphs.gov/history)

Military Women's Memorial,  
[womensmemorial.org](http://womensmemorial.org)

National Guard Educational Foundation,  
[www.ngef.org](http://www.ngef.org)

National Museum of American Jewish Military History,  
[nmajmh.org](http://nmajmh.org)

National Museum of the American Indian,  
[americanindian.si.edu](http://americanindian.si.edu)

National Native American Veterans Memorial,  
[americanindian.si.edu/visit/washington/nnavm](http://americanindian.si.edu/visit/washington/nnavm)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Heritage,  
[www.noaa.gov/heritage](http://www.noaa.gov/heritage)

National Organization of Asian American Veterans (NOAAV),  
[www.noaav.org](http://www.noaav.org)

The National POW/MIA Memorial,  
[www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/riverside.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/riverside.asp)

The National Prisoner of War Museum,  
[www.nps.gov/ande/planyourvisit/natl\\_pow\\_museum.htm](http://www.nps.gov/ande/planyourvisit/natl_pow_museum.htm)

National Pacific War Museum,  
[www.pacificwarmuseum.org](http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org)

National VA History Center,  
[department.va.gov/history/va-history-center](http://department.va.gov/history/va-history-center)

National Veterans Memorial and Museum,  
[nationalvmm.org](http://nationalvmm.org)

The National WWI Museum and Memorial,  
[theworldwar.org](http://theworldwar.org)

The National WWII Museum,  
[www.nationalww2museum.org](http://www.nationalww2museum.org)

Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC),  
[www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

U.S. Air Force USAF History and Museums Program,  
[www.afhistoryandmuseums.af.mil](http://www.afhistoryandmuseums.af.mil)

U.S. Army Center of Military History,  
[history.army.mil](http://history.army.mil)

U.S. Marine Corps History Division,  
[www.usmcu.edu/Research/Marine-Corps-History-Division/Brief-Histories/Brief-History-of-the-United-States-Marine-Corps](http://www.usmcu.edu/Research/Marine-Corps-History-Division/Brief-Histories/Brief-History-of-the-United-States-Marine-Corps)

U.S. Public Health Service, "Invisible Corps",  
[www.pbs.org/video/invisible-corps-5czrsw](http://www.pbs.org/video/invisible-corps-5czrsw)

U.S. Space Force,  
[www.spaceforce.mil](http://www.spaceforce.mil)

Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress,  
[www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project](http://www.loc.gov/programs/veterans-history-project)

**NOTE:** Meaningful and important monuments and memorials to U.S. Veterans are in place throughout the country. A good project for students would involve researching such commemorations in their local area, where they may be able to visit to pay personal tribute to those who have given so much.

The Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide is published  
in honor of U.S. Veterans by the

**VETERANS DAY NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

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Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20420

[department.va.gov/veterans-day](http://department.va.gov/veterans-day)