

November 11th is

'A Soldier's Journey', The new WWI Memorial in DC. Image Source: npr

ARMISTICE DAY & VETERANS DAY

On November 11th, 1918, just after 5:00am, the United States and it's Allies signed an armistice with Germany, marking the final day of World War I. The armistice wouldn't go into effect until 11:00am. In those six hours, after the agreement was signed, 2,738 men lost their lives fighting until the very end.

WWI is often considered the first 'modern war' in terms of technology, and so it was particularly destructive. The war, fought in trenches with automatic weaponry, tanks, and chemical weapons, would last four years. The United States suffered 116,516 casualties in just six months of fighting. An additional 204,000 soldiers were wounded. The signing of the cease-fire would be commemorated as Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day. The holiday is celebrated by all the Allied powers who participated in the war. Some call it Death/Duty Day in remembrance of the sacrifices made in the final hours of fighting. For more information on the armistice, please enjoy this [YouTube Documentary \(54:55\)](#).



A year after Armistice Day, President Woodrow Wilson delivered a speech commemorating the end of armed conflict, reflecting on the heroic sacrifices made by the troops in service of the Free World. The unity on display between people of different nations in resolving the conflict was an unprecedented moment in world history that would be unmatched until the resolution of the second World War in 1945. On November 10th, 1923, the President Wilson would speak about Armistice Day in what would be the [First Recorded Radio Address \(4:47\)](#). Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, was a World War II Veteran who wanted to see Armistice Day expanded to encompass all veterans. He would lead a delegation to President Eisenhower in 1945 pitching the idea of a 'Veterans Day' in 1945, which the president was enthusiastic about and whole-heartedly supported. Weeks would be awarded the Presidential Citizenship Medal in 1982 for being the 'Father of Veterans Day'. The Department of Veteran Affairs specifies that the spelling of Veterans Day be done without an apostrophe, emphasizing that the day of recognition belongs to all veterans. This Veterans Day we encourage you to take time to honor and celebrate the profound sacrifices and achievements of all veterans, as well as the service members who continue to serve today. Camden County will be hosting a Virtual Ceremony on November 11th at 10:00am to honor New Jersey Veterans. For details on how to watch, please visit [HERE](#). DMAVA is also hosting a memorial ceremony in Holmdel at the Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day. This in-person event is open to the public. Find more details [HERE](#).

DEIB Newsletter

November 6th, 2024

DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER,
WE HONOR OUR

VETERANS

November 10th is

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

'Semper Fidelis', the official slogan for the United States Marine Corps translates to 'Always Faithful'. No two words could better exemplify the spirit of our Marines. Founded as the Continental Marines in November of 1775, these men and women have been defending our nation since a time pre-dating the Constitution. Serving as amphibious and expeditionary operations, the Marines have served pivotal roles in every major War. The Marine Corps was instrumental to our success during WWII, notably, contributing greatly to our efforts in the Pacific Theatre. The most famous engagement is often considered the siege of the island of Iwo Jima in 1945, wherein the Marines sought to capture the island from the Imperial Japanese Army. Iwo Jima was essentially the last line of defense between the United States forces and mainland Japan. The fighting was fierce, and despite securing victory in the end, the Marines suffered heavy casualties. The Marines have a long history of including women in their ranks, going as far back as 1918. The first woman to have served was Opha May Johnson (1878-1955), who was a member of the Marine Corps Reserve. As of 2019, women make up 7.8% of Marine personnel. Similarly, the Marines are among the earliest branches of the military to allow African-Americans to serve. Between 1776 and 1777, over a dozen African American Marines served the US during the Revolutionary War. Today, the US Marine Corp serves as a beacon for bravery and liberty in all territories they serve.



RESOURCES

Post service, Veterans are at higher risk for mental health issues and economic instability. A range of resources are available to support their transition to civilian life and ongoing well-being. Whether you're seeking assistance with healthcare, education, employment, or mental health, below, you'll find a group of resources and programs that can help veterans navigate the challenges they may face and access the support they deserve.

Housing Assistance:

welcomehomevetsofnj.org

Volunteering Opportunities:

nj.gov/military/veterans



VETERANS CRISIS
LINE:
DIAL 988 AND
PRESS 1



Medical Care/Substance Abuse:

va.gov/find-loations/

Employment:

hireheroesusa.org/



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