



Veterans' Day: A salute to our nation's heroes

What is Veterans' Day?

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Feature Editor

Why is it that you'll be home from school tomorrow?

For what reason will you be sleeping in and watching endless hours of television? The mail carrier won't be bringing magazines and bills, banks won't be cashing any checks, and children will be home from school? Why?

Because tomorrow marks an important, but often overlooked, national holiday.

It is a holiday that celebrates the sacrifices people made serving our country, and honors those who survived the atrocities of war and still are living in our midst. Those memories of war are forever etched into their minds, even after the nation's

gratitude and applause have ended.

Veterans' Day, originally called Armistice Day, became an official national holiday in 1938, twenty years after World War I ended and a year before World War II began.

The name was changed to Veterans' Day in 1958 and was designated as a holiday to give thanks to the Veterans of our country.

On Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. we, the nation, should observe a moment of

silence to remember those who have fought for peace.

The resolution enacted by Congress states: "It is a fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations."

While this holiday is marked with celebrations and parades, it is important to remember the real reason we are honoring these defenders of American society. These men and women gave up their childhood, left their families and traveled to remote parts of the earth to serve their country. They've seen their friends die by their sides and struggled to fight for their own lives.

So, as you lie in bed tomorrow morning and are relishing the notion of not having to come into school, stop and ponder the men and women who made your day of rest possible. Think of the sacrifices they made and the challenges they faced.

Call or visit veterans in your own family (grandparents, aunts, uncles, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers) and let them know that you are keeping them in your thoughts. One of the best presents you can give a veteran is a word of appreciation.

And when you see the smile or tear in their eye, you'll know what this holiday is all about.

The recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer.

Marines celebrate birthday

Annual Marine Corps Ball recognizes 224 years of service

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From the halls of Montezuma, to the shores of Tripoli, they have fought our country's battles in the air, on land and sea. They are few, but proud.

They have been called "Teufel Hunden" German for Devil Dog and "Faresta" Bangladeshi for Sea Angels. They are feared and loved.

They've been referred to as "America's 911 force in readiness" and "The President's Own."

On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, adopted a secret resolution which formally established a military organization whose fame and tradition was destined to achieve prominence in the annals of American warfare, thus marking the inception of the United States Marine Corps.

The U. S. Marine Corps is an organization rich with history and tradition. They are well-respected men and women, who serve their country to the best of their ability.

Every year in November, all Marine Corps commands hold a ball to commemorate the birth-date of the Corps.

"The ball is the one time of the year where you just go and have fun... you're on the same level as every one else," said Corporal Jeremy Wright, a student at Clackamas.

The ball begins with the reading of former Commandant of the Marine Corps' General John A. Lejeune's birthday address.

Following the birthday address is the cake-cutting ceremony where the oldest and youngest marines present are presented with the first piece of cake, representing the passing of the old to the new.

A pageant celebrating the history of the Marine Corps will be held after the cake has been

cut and the food has been served. Uniforms of past and present will be modeled, and reenactments of important points in Marine history will be performed.

One of the most well known Marine achievements is the raising of the U.S. Flag on Mount Saribachi, in Iwo Jima. This was also the scene where Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz made the famous quote about the Marines at Iwo Jima: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

The flag raising will be one of the events reenacted. Wright will be one of the four Marines, along with one Navy corpsman raising the flag.

The local ball will be held Saturday Nov 13. Marines who would like to go can purchase tickets at the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, located at 6735 N. BASIN AVE, Portland, OR.

Semper Fidelis -- Latin for Always Faithful.

PHOTO GALLERY



Sgt. William Steveson takes a break from his duties in World War II to write a letter to his family back home.

A wife embraces her husband after a six month separation.



A Vietnam vet pours out his heart at the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

Two men return to honor a friend who died in battle.



A soldier wears a gas mask while completing paper work during the Persian Gulf war.



The 2nd Infantry Division listens to Lt. General Patton in Northern Ireland in 1944.

