

TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

VETERANS DAY 2009



NOVEMBER 11, 2009



Veterans Day 2009

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee are pleased to provide this Teacher Resource Guide. 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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THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2009

Dear Principal:

America has a sacred trust to care for those who defend her. From the warriors who stormed the beaches at Normandy on D-Day to the brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan — our Veterans share a legacy of service that crosses generational lines and upholds the values upon which our Nation was founded: service to a cause greater than self.

For this, they deserve the respect and gratitude of our Nation. That is why I am proud to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as we fulfill this sacred trust through the delivery of world-class benefits and services. I am also proud to serve President Barack Obama and fulfill his vision of transforming VA for the 21st century to meet the needs of future generations of Veterans.

On Veterans Day, November 11, we come together as a Nation to thank and honor Veterans for their service. We do this through community parades, patriotic ceremonies and military tributes. We also do this in schools with flag raising ceremonies, assemblies and lesson plans that emphasize Veterans and their role in shaping our history.

Educators are vital in establishing a meaningful connection between Veterans and students as we prepare for Veterans Day. That is why I am sending this 2009 Veterans Day poster and CD-ROM with suggested activities and lesson plans for Veterans Day. It is my hope that you will find an opportunity to incorporate these resources into your Veterans Day lessons and ceremonial activities.

Through service in uniform, Veterans have invested of themselves in the security, safety and well-being of our nation. Let us then, as a grateful Nation, hold them in the highest regard as we offer tributes and ceremonies on Veterans Day 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eric K. Shinseki", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Eric K. Shinseki

Enclosures

Veterans Day 2009



Teacher Resources





INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 2009 Veterans Day School and Teacher Resource Guide. As Veterans Day approaches, we hope you will help your students connect with the brave service members of our present and past. We can all better value the freedoms we have because of the men and women who have served in defense of our nation.

There are nearly 24 million Veterans living among us, in every state and territory and from every walk of life. Many of the students in your class may be the son, daughter, cousin, or 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 American history. Our hope is that students will be encouraged to learn more of these often unheard stories from those close to them.

This resource guide, along with another group of America's finest – you as teachers – will allow your students, on Veterans Day, to learn more about the price these brave service members have paid to defend our nation.

Thanks again and please join us in remembering our veterans on Veterans Day, November 11, 2009.

THE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY:

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.

The scope of such a program may be large enough to permit invitations to the community, to include local Veterans groups. Students can be encouraged to bring family members that are Veterans (especially parents, siblings or grandparents) or currently in the Armed Forces.



Renee McElveen

Inviting local Veterans groups:

Inviting local Veterans groups can make 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 and Taps to thrilling speeches and stories, Veterans, as guests, will both entertain and educate students.

Veterans groups in your area can be found through your local Veterans service organization chapters and VA hospitals. You might 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 guests coming to speak. A listing of Veterans organizations appears on page 16 of this guide. Or visit www.va.gov/vso/ for an online directory of Veterans' groups.

TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

Program Guide:

Undoubtedly, your school will want to put on a program worthy of all these distinguished guests. The following are some suggestions and a sample program guide 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 nation's colors (the U.S. flag) is a stirring event. Local Veterans service organizations often participate in such programs with their impressive array of military banners and American flags.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and singing of the National Anthem – The program chairperson, school principal or student body president, should invite the audience to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.

Introductory Remarks – Brief introductory remarks set the tone for the program. Consider reading the President's Veterans Day Proclamation, which the White House issues and posts on the internet shortly before Veterans Day. For more information, please visit: www.whitehouse.gov.

Additional remarks and suitable quotations for speeches can be found on the Veterans Day Web site www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/ or use those featured in this guide.

Introduction of Guests – Introduce any special guests, which might 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.

Special Musical Selection – A band or choral group could offer one of the more impressive patriotic selections available.

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 offered by the student-author. A reading of a well-known patriotic address by an American President or military hero is also effective. There are a number of published musicals/narratives which can enhance your program. A short play or skit performed by the younger students can be exciting as well.

Moment of Silence, Taps – While Veterans Day is primarily a tribute to America's living veterans, and is typically observed more as a celebration than as a somber remembrance (Memorial Day), it is always appropriate to include a moment of respect for those who gave their lives for our country. The signing of the World War I Armistice took place in a railway coach near the battle zone in France. The bugles sounded cease fire and the hostilities ended, marking a most significant moment in world history. Although 11:00 a.m. remains a traditional hour for this type of tribute, a moment of silence is appropriate at any point in the program. This may be followed by a rendition of "Taps." For more information on the history of Taps please visit 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.



CLASSROOM ACTIVITY GUIDE:

Flag-Raising Ceremony

Weather permitting, outdoor flag-raising ceremonies highlight an activity that occurs daily at many schools, but often goes unnoticed. Such a ceremony, although brief, should include the Pledge of Allegiance and the playing of the National Anthem. A special guest may be invited to participate.



Department of Defense

Patriotic Groups

Local Veterans, historical or other patriotic organizations may enliven Veterans Day programs by providing period-uniformed flag bearers, fife and drum corps, and other marching and musical units. These organizations may also provide speakers with unique military experiences to share. One of the most popular activities among students is to meet with local Veterans during an assembly or in individual classrooms to hear Veterans share their experiences and answer questions. The Veterans can be relatives of students or members of local Veterans service organizations.

Messages for Veterans

One of the most personal and meaningful Veterans Day activities for students is to send notes or cards to hospitalized Veterans or those living in Veterans' homes. Students can design and send individual notes or cards or work together as a group to send an oversized card or poster signed by all of the students in a class. The cards and posters can then be mailed in one large envelope to the nearest VA medical center or state Veterans home.

Addresses for state Veterans homes and VA medical centers in your area can be found in the blue government pages of the telephone book.

There also is a link to the VA facility locator on the VA Web site: www.va.gov/health/.

Envelopes sent to VA medical centers should be addressed to "Voluntary Service Director" and those sent to Veterans homes should be addressed to "Administrator."

School Newspaper

Veterans Day stories can be featured in school publications. Publish a roster of faculty members who are Veterans. Describe Veterans Day activities being held in classrooms throughout the school.

Library Activities

School or community libraries can prepare lists of recommended reading material suitable for Veterans Day. An appropriate display of book jackets or a special shelf containing selected publications can be used to call attention to the project. For more ideas, go to the Library of Congress Web site for children at www.americaslibrary.gov.

TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

Football Games

Veterans Day is observed at the time of year when schools and clubs are engaged in the football season. The presentation of the colors and playing of the National Anthem may be keyed to Veterans Day by an appropriate public address announcement. Halftime presentations by school bands afford an ideal opportunity to offer special patriotic selections and marching routines. Card section displays may also be used to spell out phrases such as "Thank You Veterans" or "Veterans Day" in stadium stands to visually recognize those who served in the military.

Uniforms and Emblems

The colorful and varied uniforms and emblems worn by members of the Armed Forces throughout our history offer students of all ages ideal subjects to draw and paint. Elementary school children enjoy opportunities to create and exhibit costume items. Making colored construction paper hats representing various military eras is a modest and effective way of gaining the interest of students in Veterans Day subjects. The official emblems and seals of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard can be portrayed by students in a variety of methods, such as mosaics, applique, decoupage, as well as the traditional painting and drawing approaches.

Movies and Documentaries

To introduce students to a particular war or period of service, show appropriately rated movies and documentaries as a starting point to discuss the history, politics and meaning behind each war. Consider bringing a Veteran into the classroom

to discuss his or her personal experience in the service and how it compares to the movies.

Poster Contest

The creative talents of students can be encouraged through a school-wide Veterans Day poster contest. Winners should be appropriately recognized. Local newspapers should be invited to photograph the winning entries.

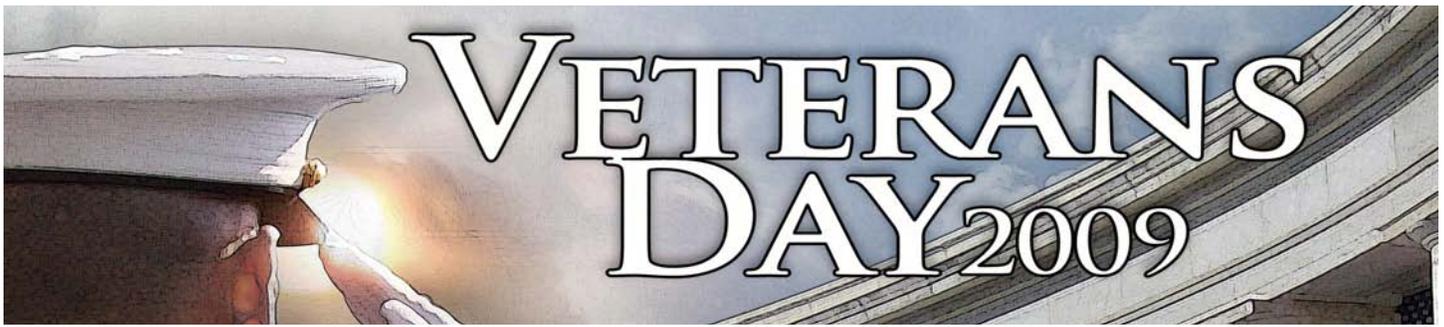
Musical Program



Department of Defense

Veterans Day offers an exciting opportunity for school or community musical organizations to display their talents. A midday concert at the school or at a central location in the community may be dedicated to Veterans Day.

An innovative program might include selections known to have been popular during America's wars. Visit the Patriotic Melodies link at the Library of Congress Web site for a sample of patriotic music: www.loc.gov/performingarts/index.html.



Students' Relatives



Department of Defense

Ask students to research and list known relatives who have served in the Armed Forces. With nearly a quarter of the United States population consisting of Veterans, their dependents and survivors, students may tap into a rich history going back as far as the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Writing Assignments

Veterans Day themes can be included in writing assignments. Assign students to write about accounts of military service told by local Veterans. Assign students to investigate the various benefits offered to Veterans by government agencies. Write about Veterans who are receiving educational benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Describe various Veterans memorials which may be located nearby.

School Cafeteria Activities

Patriotic decorations in school dining areas add a colorful reminder of Veterans Day. One could create special menu items such as decorated cupcakes or cookies. Download the 2009 Veterans Day poster from the Veterans Day Web site for placement in the cafeteria, in classrooms and on school bulletin boards.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Local VA facilities – medical centers, benefits offices and national cemeteries can serve as sources of information and speakers for Veterans Day programs. They can also provide contact with local Veterans service organizations and arrange visits, tours and other special programs for students.

To contact your local VA facilities, look under Department of Veterans Affairs in the federal government listings in the local telephone directory.

The following section provides resources, hand-outs and activities for students, which will help them better understand and appreciate Veterans Day. Please select resources that are appropriate for the grade level of your students and feel free to reproduce the following pages as necessary.

How useful is this guide? Send your comments or suggestions to vetsday@va.gov.

Veterans Day 2009



Student Resources



WALT DISNEY GOES TO WAR

An important factor ensuring America's ultimate victory over the Axis Powers in World War II was the overwhelming and unwavering support of the Home Front. Contributing much to creating and maintaining that Home Front support were Walt Disney films. Meanwhile, morale-boosting Disney-designed insignia that soon appeared on planes, trucks, flight jackets, and other military equipment accomplished the same for American and Allied forces.



Hal Olsen, a professional nose artist, paints "The Ruptured Duck" on the nose of a B-25B bomber at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island, Hawaii, to commemorate the historical aircraft's exhibit. Olsen, a retired naval aviation mechanic, started his art career more than 60 years ago during World War II. U.S. Navy photo.

During the war Disney made films for every branch of the U.S. government. Typical of the films was the 1943 "The Spirit of '43," produced at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr. The film depicted Donald Duck dealing with federal income taxes and pointing out the benefit of paying his taxes in support of the American war effort.

At the Navy's request, the Disney Studios also produced, in just three months, some 90,000 feet of training film to educate sailors on navigation tactics. Disney animators also worked closely with Hollywood producer Frank Capra and created what many consider to be the most brilliant animated maps to appear in a series of seven highly successful "Why We Fight" films.

During the war, over 90 percent of Disney employees were devoted to the production of training and propaganda films. In all, the Disney Studios produced some 400,000 feet of film representing some 68 hours of continuous film. Included among the films produced was "Der Fuehrer's Face," again featuring Donald Duck. It won the Oscar as the best animated film for 1943.

WALT DISNEY CONT.

Perhaps the importance of the Disney Studios to the war effort is best demonstrated by the fact that the U.S. Army deployed troops to protect the facilities, the only Hollywood studio accorded such treatment.

During World War I, while serving as a Red Cross ambulance driver, Walt Disney embellished his ambulance and other vehicles with drawings and cartoon figures. Thus, he came to appreciate the importance of humorous insignia to unit morale and esprit-de-corps. It is not surprising, therefore, that during World War II Disney artists often used their talents to design military insignia and emblems.

For example, in 1942 the Navy asked Disney to design an emblem appropriate for its new fleet of Navy torpedo boats known as "mosquito boats." In response, Disney provided its famous emblem of a mosquito riding a torpedo, which soon adorned all of the newly constructed PT boats. At the request of the China Defense Supplies organization, the Disney Studios also designed a winged tiger flying through a large V for victory for the world famous "Flying Tigers." By war's end, the Disney Studios had produced over 1,200 insignias for both the U.S. Army and Navy, as well as Allied units, without ever charging a fee.

By Lisa Briner, US Army Heritage and Education Center

ABOUT THIS STORY: Many of the sources presented in this article are among 400,000 books, 1.7 million photos and 12.5 million manuscripts available for study through the U.S. Army Military History Institute (MHI). The artifacts shown are among nearly 50,000 items of the Army Heritage Museum (AHM) collections. MHI and AHM are part of the: Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC), 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA, 17013-5021.

For additional information on the US Army Heritage and Education Center, please visit: www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/index.cfm.



Shoulder Sleeve insignia of the Womens Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron, later called the Womens Army Service Pilots. The patch depicts the Walt Disney Studios designed "Fifinella," coming in for a landing. Army Heritage Museum patch.

“TO HONOR VETERANS OF ALL WARS”

Raymond Weeks of Birmingham, Alabama, organized a Veterans Day parade for that city on November 11, 1947, to honor all of America's Veterans for their loyal service. Later, U.S. Representative Edward H. Rees of Kansas proposed legislation changing the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor all who have served in America's Armed Forces.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate 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 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 the annual Veterans Day poster and this Teacher Resource Guide.



Eisenhower Presidential Library

June 1, 1954: President Eisenhower signs HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Standing are: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts.

In 1968, Congress moved Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. However, it became apparent that the November 11th date was historically significant to a great many Americans. As a result, Congress formally returned the observance of Veterans Day to its traditional date in 1978.

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m., a color guard, made up of members from each of the military services, renders honors to America's war dead during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

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 numerous Veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the Veterans Day National Committee supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow. For a listing of these sites, please visit: www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/regsites.asp.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VETERANS DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY?

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Both holidays were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. But Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, which is observed on November 11, Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. 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 served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

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," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is 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 in the United States 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 minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. For information on the National Moment of Remembrance, please visit: www.remember.gov.

Fort Smith National Cemetery



“A SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD”

In 1921, an American soldier—his name “known but to God”—was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, DC. The burial site of this unknown World War I soldier in Arlington National Cemetery symbolized dignity and reverence for America’s veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an “unknown soldier” of the Great War was buried in each nation’s highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe).

These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as “Armistice Day.”

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But in 1939, World War II broke out in Europe and shattered that dream. Of the 16 million Americans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, more than 400,000 died.

Department of Defense





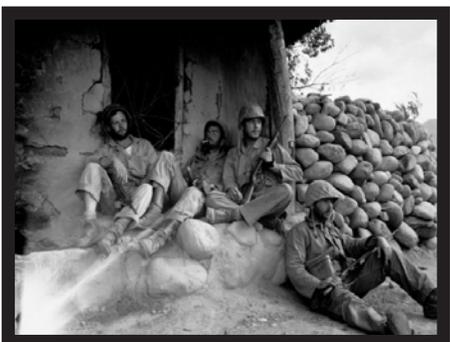
WORLD WAR I
(1917 - 1918)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	4,734,991
Battle Deaths.....	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings.....	204,002
Living Veterans.....	1



WORLD WAR II
(1941 - 1945)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	16,112,566
Battle Deaths.....	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings.....	671,846
Living Veterans.....	2,306,000



KOREAN WAR
(1950 - 1953)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	5,720,000
Battle Deaths.....	33,739
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings.....	103,284
Living Veterans.....	2,307,000



VIETNAM WAR
(1964 - 1975)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	8,744,000
Battle Deaths.....	47,434
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings.....	153,303
Living Veterans.....	7,125,000



GULF WAR
(1990 - 1991)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide).....	2,322,000
Battle Deaths.....	147
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	1,590
Non-mortal Woundings.....	467
Living Veterans.....	2,269,000



WAR ON TERROR
(2001 - PRESENT)

The War on Terror, including Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom are ongoing conflicts. For the most recent statistics, please visit the following Department of Defense Web site: http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot_component.pdf



Robert Turtil

HOW TO CONTACT VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Veterans service organizations are groups of Veterans that come together to promote and support Veterans' issues. Many organizations consist of members that share a common experience, such as those that 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 throughout the country with Veterans who can share their experiences with younger generations.



The Paralyzed Veterans of America: 801 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 872-1300; www.pva.org.



Legion of Valor of the USA, Inc: 4706 Calle Reina, Santa Barbara, CA 93110-2018; (805) 692-2244; www.legionofvalor.com/.



The Military Order of the World Wars: 435 North Lee St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 683-4911; www.militaryorder.net/.



The Retired Enlisted Association: 1111 S. Abilene Court, Aurora, CO 80012; 1-800-338-9337; www.trea.org/.



Congressional Medal of Honor Society: 40 Patriots Point Rd, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464; (843) 884-8862; www.cmohs.org/.



Disabled American Veterans: 3725 Alexandria Pike, Cold Springs, KY 41076; (859) 441-7300; www.dav.org/.



Military Officers Association of America: 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 549-2311; www.moaa.org/.



Polish Legion of American Veterans: P.O. Box 42024, Washington, DC 20015; www.plav.org/.



Korean War Veterans Association: 8452 Marys Creek Dr. Benbrook, TX 76116-7600; (817) 244-0706; www.kwva.org/.



American G.I. Forum: 2870 N. Speer Blvd., Suite 102, Denver, CO 80211; (303) 458-1700; www.agif.us/.



Jewish War Veterans of the USA: 1811 R St., NW, Washington, DC 20009; 202-265-6280; www.jwv.org/.



American Ex-Prisoners of War:
3201 East Pioneer Pky, #40, Ar-
lington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979;
www.axpow.org/.



Catholic War Veterans: 441
North Lee St., Alexandria, VA
22314; (703) 549-3622;
<http://cww.org/>.



Vietnam Veterans of America:
8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400,
Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301)
585-4000; www.vva.org/.



Veterans of Foreign Wars of
the United States: 406 West 34th
Street, Kansas City, MO 64111;
(816) 756-3390; www.vfw.org/.



AMVETS: 4647 Forbes Boule-
vard, Lanham, MD 20706-4380;
(301) 459-9600; www.amvets.org/.



Blinded Veterans Association:
477 H Street, NW, Washington,
DC 20001-2694; (202) 371-8880;
www.bva.org/.



Army and Navy Union: 107
Fulton St., Niles, OH 44446; (330)
349-4724; www.armynavy.net/.



Non Commissioned Officers
Association: 10635 IH 35 North,
San Antonio, TX 78233; (210) 653-
6161; www.ncoausa.org/.



The American Legion: P.O. Box
1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206;
(317) 630-1200; www.legion.org/.



Military Order of the Purple
Heart of the USA, Inc.: 5413-C
Backlick Rd., Springfield, VA 22151;
(703) 354-2140;
www.purpleheart.org/.



Pearl Harbor Survivors Associa-
tion: P.O. Box 1816, Carlsbad,
CA 92016-1816; (760) 727-9027;
www.pearlharborsurvivor.net/



Fleet Reserve Association:
125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA
22314-2754: 1-800-FRA-1924;
www.fra.org



The Marine Corps League:
8626 Lee Hwy, Suite 201, Fairfax,
VA 22031; (703) 207-9588/89;
www.mcleague.org.



The Military Chaplains
Association: P.O. Box 7056,
Arlington, VA 22207-7056; (703)
533-5890; www.mca-usa.org.

In addition, the Veterans Day National
Committee is comprised of the following Associate
Members:

- American Gold Star Mothers
- Gold Star Wives of America
- Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.
- Blue Star Mothers of America
- Air Force Association
- Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Air Force Sergeants Association
- Help Hospitalized Veterans
- American Red Cross
- American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor
- National Association of State Veterans Homes
- Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
- National Association for Uniformed Services
- Japanese American Veterans Association
- National Association of State Directors of
Veterans Affairs
- Bowlers to Veterans Link
- The Women's Army Corps Veteran's
Association

For an online directory of Veterans organiza-
tions, please visit www.va.gov/vso/.



Scholarships

The Military Order of the Purple Heart offers scholarships to: members, their spouses and direct descendants (child, step-child, grandchild or great grandchild) of either (1) a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart or (2) a Veteran killed in action or a Veteran who died of wounds, but did not have the opportunity to join the Military Order of the Purple Heart. For additional information, please visit www.purpleheart.org and type "Scholarships" into the Web site search engine.

The Military Officers Association of America provides scholarships and grants to children of military personnel seeking their undergraduate degree. The online application is available in early November and information on the different programs may be found at www.moaa.org/education.

The DAV Youth Volunteer Scholarship – The Jesse Brown Memorial Youth Scholarship – encourages young people to get involved in volunteer work to assist disabled Veterans. This program recognizes young volunteers who are active participants in the VA Voluntary Service program. Volunteers age 21 or younger, volunteering a minimum of 100 hours at a VA medical center during the previous calendar year, are eligible. Scholarships can be used at any accredited institution of higher learning; to include universities, colleges, community colleges, vocational schools, etc. Scholarships must be utilized in full prior to the recipient attaining the age of 25. Immediate family members of the DAV national organization are eligible to receive a scholarship. Nominations for this award can be submitted by the Voluntary Service Program Manager at the VA medical center. For additional information, please visit www.dav.org/volunteers/Scholarship.aspx.

The VFW's Scout of the Year Scholarship program provides a \$5,000 award to an outstanding scout who is the recipient of a Boy Scout Eagle Award, a Venture Scouting Silver Award or a Sea Scout Quartermaster Award. Second-place winner receives a \$3,000 award. Third-place winner receives \$1,000. Complete information and entry forms can be accessed at www.vfw.org by clicking on scholarships under the programs tab. Applicants must submit their entry to their local VFW Post by March 1, 2010.

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) supports America's future leaders by awarding more than \$100,000 annually in scholarships to deserving students. Awardees are selected based on financial need, academic standing, character and leadership qualities. FRA scholarships are awarded to FRA members, their spouses, children, and grandchildren. For information, visit www.fra.org and click on "About FRA" for the scholarships link.

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) offers the Kathryn F. Gruber Scholarship Program. These scholarships are available for spouses or dependent children of blinded Veterans. Additional information is available at www.bva.org.

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Mike Nash Memorial Scholarship is available to a VVA member; a spouse, child, stepchild or grandchild of a VVA member; or a spouse, child, stepchild or grandchild of an MIA, KIA or deceased Vietnam Veteran, for costs associated with undergraduate studies at accredited educational/technical institutions. Applications must be received by May 31st of each year. Please visit www.vva.org/scholarship.html for additional information.

The Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc., offers a scholarship for members in good standing for at least one year. It is available for a member's spouse or their linear descendants to include adopted children, stepchildren, foster children and their immediate descendants. The applicant must be enrolled or accepted to a program of any post-secondary education. Additional information is available by calling 1-800-843-8626.

The LaVerne Noyes Scholarship is awarded on an annual basis to direct blood descendants of Veterans who served in the U.S. Army, Navy or Marine Corps in World War I and whose service was terminated by death or honorable discharge. The Veteran must have fulfilled at least one of the following criteria:

(a) Served on active duty overseas between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, (b) Died in service between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, (c) Served at least 6 months on non combat duty between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918. A scholarship recipient must be enrolled full-time in a degree-seeking undergraduate program. This scholarship is awarded on an annual basis. The dollar amount of the scholarship will be determined by the total number of eligible recipients and the funds available from the endowment each year. Please contact your university's tuition assistance office for information.

Writing Contests

The Voice of Democracy is a audio-essay contest for students in grades 9 -12. Students are required to write and record a script on a patriotic theme. The 2009 - 2010 theme is "Does America Still Have Heroes". The essay, entry form and cassette or CD must be submitted to a local VFW Post. A total of more than \$3 million in scholarships and incentives are given each year. The first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. Deadline for entries is November 1, 2009. For additional information, click on the "Programs" tab at www.vfw.org.

Patriot's Pen is an essay contest for students in grades 6 - 8. The entry, deadline and competition process is similar to the Voice of Democracy. Winners compete at the national level for U.S. Savings Bonds. For information, visit www.vfw.org and click on the tab "Programs".



Robert Turtil

"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 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 at 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 should be 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 briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.

Things Not to Do

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.

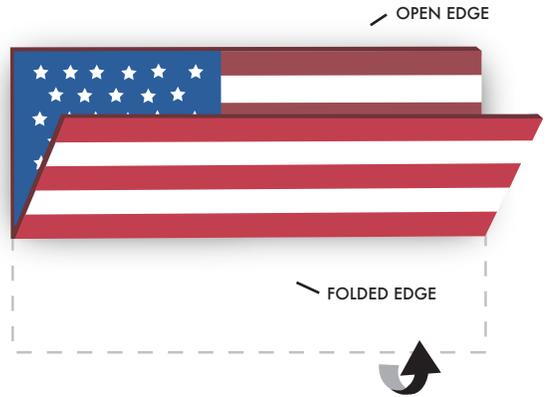
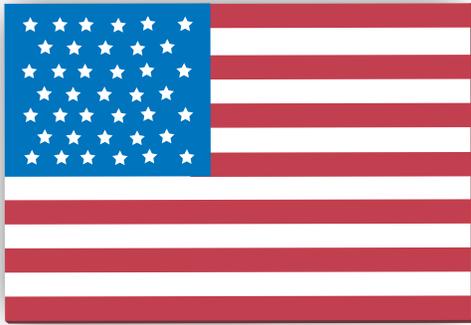
Always allow the U.S. flag to fall free – never use the U.S. flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below. Never fasten, display, 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.

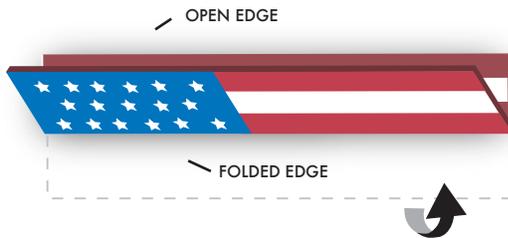


Many Marines gave their lives to raise the American flag on Mt. Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima in 1945. Based on a photograph by Joseph Rosenthal, the Marine Corps War Memorial depicts this sacrifice. Located near Arlington National Cemetery, it is a tribute to all the Marines who have fallen in combat.

Folding the Flag



(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.



(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.



(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.



(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.



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

Veterans Day 2009



Kid's Packet

The Veterans Day National Committee would like to thank World Leaders Entertainment, <http://www.wleaders.com>, for design contributions to this Kid's Packet.



Help Tags the Dog find the 8 differences between the original drawing, left, and the altered version, right.

**Answers on Page 25*



World Leaders Entertainment

A STUDENT PLAY: "WHO IS A VETERAN?"

Introduction: The following is a presentation set in a school media center where fifth grade students have been sent to do a research project on Veterans and the Veterans Day holiday.

Setting: Table in Media Center



Staff Sgt. Brandon Jacobson, with the Air Force Weather Agency, checks out school supplies with a student in Omaha, Neb. (Air Force Photo by G. A. Volb).

"what." You'd better start by going to the dictionary and looking up the definition of a "Veteran."

Student 3: What do you mean a Veteran is a who?

Student 1: Go look it up! We can use the definition in our project!

Student 3: Is a Veteran a person?

Student 2: Go look it up in the dictionary!

Student 3: All right! All right! (Student 3 pages through dictionary.) Here it is, "A Veteran is a person who has served in the armed forces, an experienced soldier, especially one who served in time of war." and, "Veterans Day is a legal holiday in the United States honoring all Veterans of the armed forces."

Student 1: See, a Veteran isn't a "what," it's a person who died for our country. They're the ones that get flags put on their graves on holidays.

Student 1: Hey, did you bring your markers and paper?

Student 2: Yes. I have everything we'll need for our pictures and drawings.

Student 1: What are we going to draw?

Student 2: Silly! You know we're here to research Veterans and the Veterans Day Holiday on November 11th.

Student 3: How do I draw a Veteran? I don't even know what it is.

Student 4: A Veteran is a "who" and not a

PLAY CONT.

Student 4: No! No! No! A Veteran isn't always someone who died in a war, or who even fought in a war at all.

Student 3: She's right. A Veteran is a man who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force.

Student 4: Well, you're half right.

Student 2: What do you mean I'm "half right"?

Student 4: Well, women can be Veterans too. Many women have served our country in the Armed Forces in times of peace and in times of war. Women can be Veterans too.

Student 3: You mean a Veteran doesn't have to have been in a war?

Student 1: No. Just having been in the Armed Forces makes a person a Veteran.

Student 2: Wow! Veterans are really special people aren't they? I mean, if a person is in the Armed Forces and we have a war, then they have to go. Right?

Student 4: No, not really. Veterans are people who have already served, but are no longer in the Armed Forces of our country. My grandfather is a Veteran. He was in the Korean War, and my uncle Jake is a Veteran too because he was in the Navy.

Student 3: You know, Veterans really are special people and they deserve to be honored with a holiday.

Student 1: There are a lot of patriotic songs that honor Veterans and our country. Maybe we could include a song with our project.

Student 2: I think there's a song book over here that has all the words to patriotic songs.

Student 4: Great! Let's pick out one that everybody can sing along with.

Student 3: Veterans Day would be a good time to remember and to thank Veterans for all they have done for us and for our country.

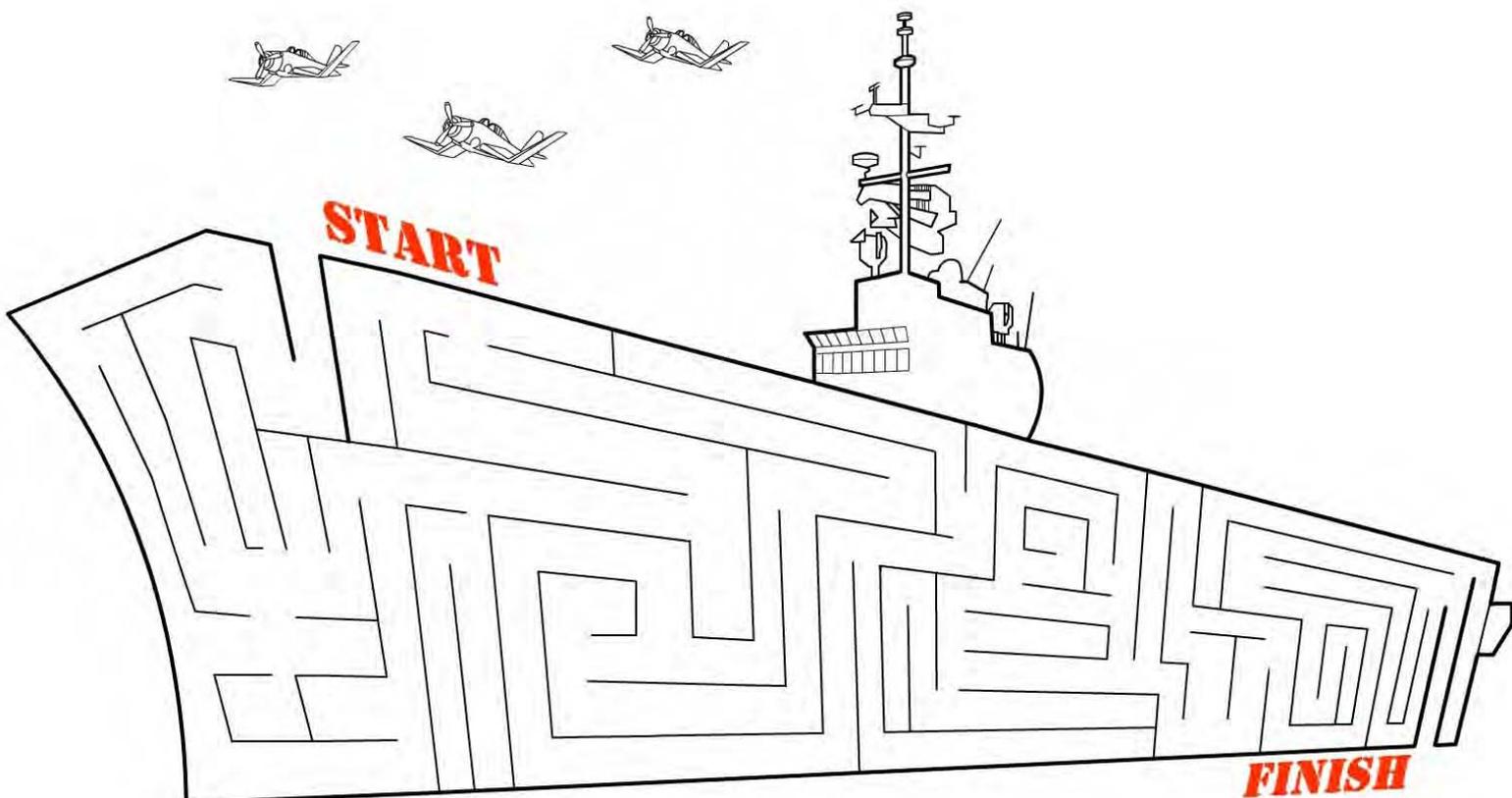
Finale: A patriotic song, such as The National Anthem, God Bless America, America the Beautiful, or God Bless the U.S.A., is performed by the actors or an assembled group of students. The rest of the students also may be encouraged to sing along.

The End

Special Thanks to:

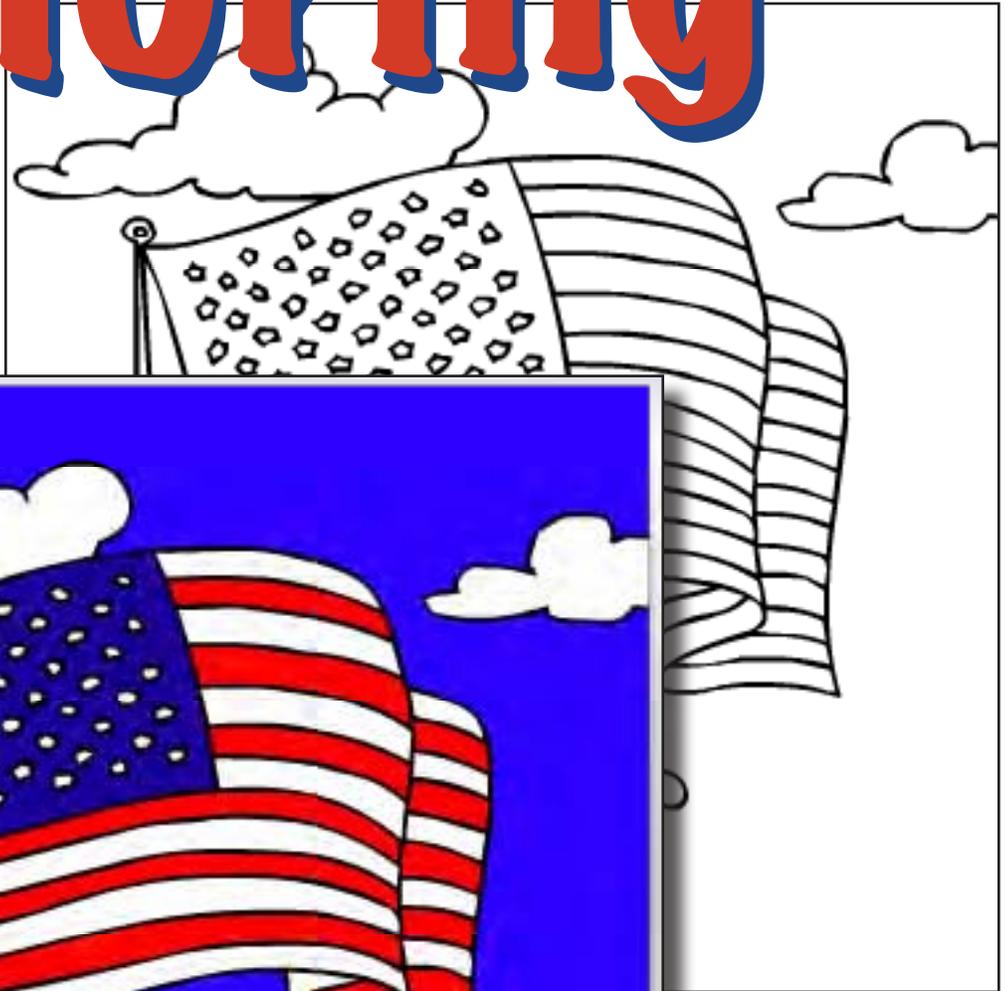
Ms. Maggi Call, a Title 1 teacher at Dunleith Elementary School, Marietta City Schools, Marietta, Georgia, for writing this play!

Help Tags the Dog find his way through this ship maze.



World Leaders Entertainment

Coloring Book!



* Answers to Look Again puzzle: star balloon, sleeve insignia, pant stripe, pant pocket, tie, shoulder strap button, heart balloon, bear tail.

Color in this Veterans Day medal, designed by Eric Burg, a veteran from St. Louis, Mo.

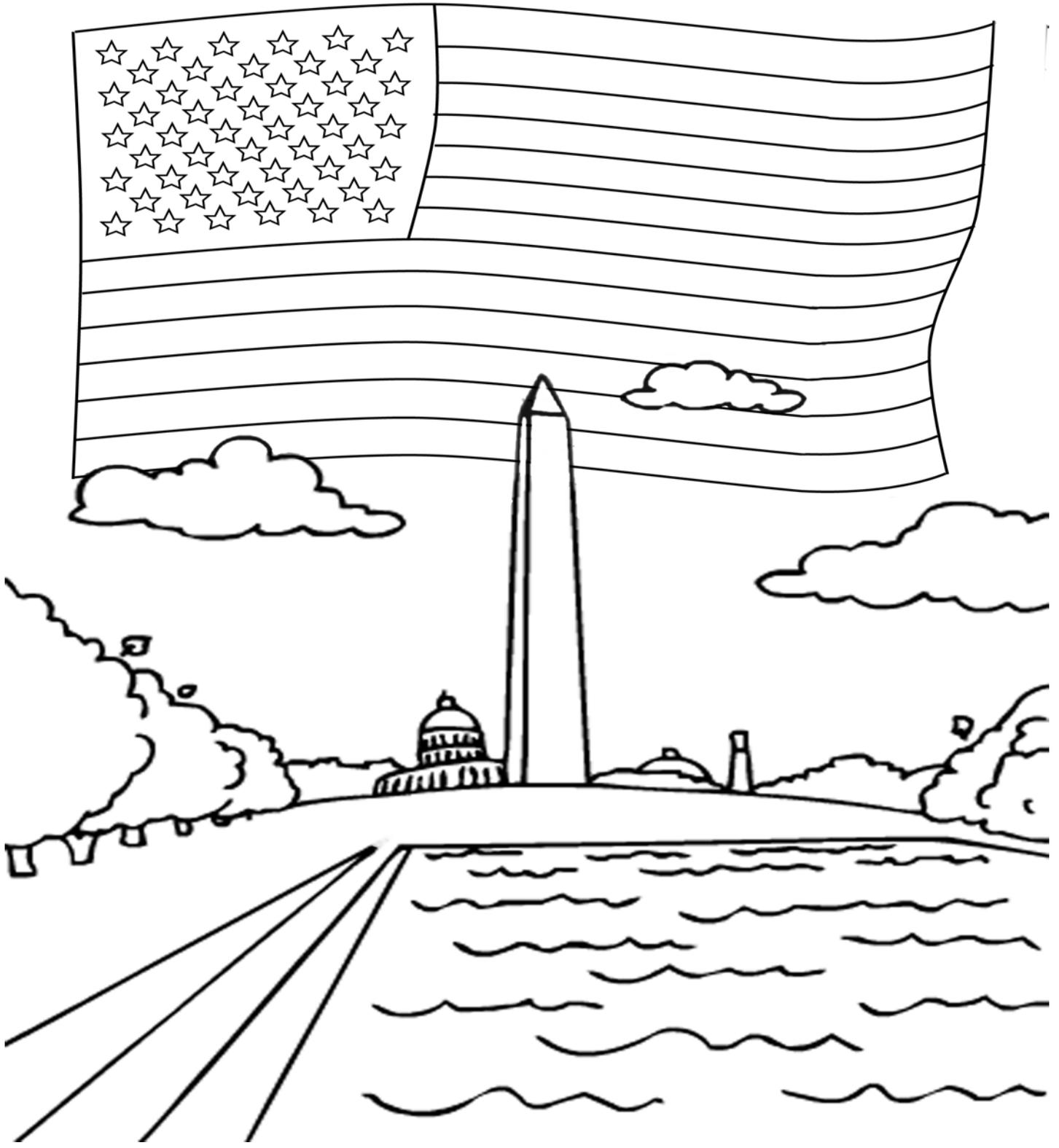




Veteran's Day

On July 12 1862, in the early days of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill establishing a "medal of honor" for soldiers in the Army who showed special bravery in combat. A few months earlier he had signed a similar bill for sailors in the Navy as well as for US Marines. Courtesy homeofheroes.com.





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The Veterans Day Teachers Resource Guide is published
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