

## Thanks Veterans – Nov. 10, 2021

W.W. I – “The Great War” - official end w/signing of Treaty of Versailles on **June 28, 1919**, in the Palace of Versailles outside town: Versailles, France. Fighting ceased **7 months** earlier in **1918** when an armistice (“cease-fire”) between Allied nations & Germany went into effect - 11<sup>th</sup> hour of 11<sup>th</sup> day of 11<sup>th</sup> month. **Nov. 11, 1918** - thought of as end of “war to end all wars.”

**Nov. 1919** – Pres. Wilson proclaimed November 11 as “Armistice Day.” Was to be a Day of pride in the heroism of those who died and fought for our country. Parades and celebrations would begin at 11:00 a.m.

Took U.S. **Congress** til **June 4, 1926** to pass a concurrent resolution officially recognizing “Armistice Day.”

**1938** - Armistice Day officially became a **Nat’l holiday by law**, making Nov. 11 a legal holiday each year: “a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as ‘Armistice Day.’”

Armistice Day was set aside to honor veterans of W.W. I, but in **1954**, it was changed. There was World War II (even more soldiers, sailors, Marines & airmen), then the Korean War. Congress amended the Act, changing “Armistice Day” to Veterans Day. With that change, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

In **1968**, Congress tried to change when Veterans Day was celebrated; wanted 3-day weekends, so moved the holiday to last Monday of October. The “Uniform Monday Holiday Act” created a mess.

46 of the 50 states ignored the celebration in October, most switching it back to November 11 and refusing to change the holiday. By **1975**, Congress had seen enough - moved Veterans Day back to November 11. President Gerald Ford signed the Act on September 20, 1975.

Veterans Day - celebration to honor America's veterans for their love of country, patriotism, willingness to serve & sacrifice for the common good. Sacrifice also by Veterans’ families, too.

Service means:

- (1) putting plans on hold; (2) doing something for a greater purpose.
- (3) answering the call; (4) Everyone's service was valuable.

On **Veterans Day** – we say **thank you** to all those who served.

We can say the same about our Christian service. **And say "Thanks"**

### **1 - putting plans on hold.**

- a) There are times we need to help someone else... our plans can wait.
- b) Thank you to those who go when needed... show up when it's not convenient... make midnight visits and early morning prayers.

### **2 - doing something greater for a greater purpose.**

- a) There is no greater purpose than ensuring someone knows Jesus... **turning a test into a testimony.**
- b) Thank you to those who have **praised** God in the **storm**... walked thru **valley** of shadow of death w/**peace** & faith – chose to be an example

### **3 - say thank you to all those who answer the call, open their hearts.**

"For many are called, but few are chosen." – **Matt. 22:14**

**God's will is for all to come to His banquet. Not all will agree.**

**Thank you** to those who said yes, who put on the robe . . . who live a Christian life ... who choose to be a witness for God.

### **4 - Everyone's service is valuable;** makes our churches strong & effective.

- a) Each uses their gifts, time, energy & passion. Body needs all parts.

Closing thoughts:

- a) Between Armistice & Treaty of Versailles - **7** months. Some were still fighting tho war had ended. Thank you to those who have said to us: war's over; stop fighting; surrender: One who already won the war.
- b) In trying to make life better (3-day weekends), Congress made things worse. Thank you to those who see needs & meet them... who are problem solvers; fix it people. Thank you to those who make messes turn into messages of hope, love, victory.

Thank you to all who serve now, & in past. Thanks to veterans of faith.