

## **FIVE FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT VETERANS DAY**

Excerpts from an article by Katie Lange

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1.) Veterans Day does NOT have an apostrophe—the holiday doesn't belong to one veteran or multiple veterans. It is a day for honoring all veterans, thus no apostrophe. Veterans Day honors all of those who served our country in war or peace, dead or alive. Veterans Day is intended to thank the living veterans for their sacrifices.

2.) Veterans Day is not the same as Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle.

3.) Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I. World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. The fighting ended about seven months earlier when the Allies and Germany put an armistice into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. In 1938, Armistice Day became an official holiday to honor veterans of World War I.

4.) Armistice Day becomes Veterans Day at the urging of veterans service organizations on June 1, 1954. Now, Veterans Day would honor American Veterans of all wars. In 1968 Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill to ensure that a few federal holidays, including Veterans Day, to be celebrated on a Monday in hopes to increase travel and other family activities over a long weekend to stimulate the economy. The bill set Veterans Day to be commemorated on the fourth Monday of October. This change took effect on Oct. 25, 1971 and created lots of confusion. Many states continued to recognize Veterans Day in November. On Sept. 20, 1975 President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-97 to return the observance of Veterans Day to its original date effective in 1978. Most U.S. citizens wanted to keep Veterans Day on Nov. 11 as it was a matter of historic and patriotic significance.

5.) Other countries celebrated Veterans Day in their own ways. World War I was a multinational effort and our allies wanted to celebrate their veterans on Nov. 11. The name of the day and type of commemoration may differ.