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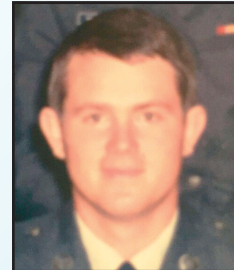
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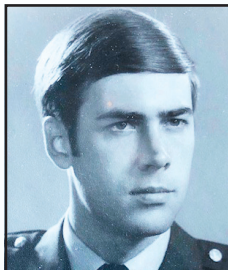
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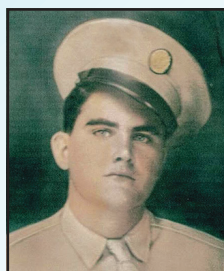
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First Class*



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*US Marine Corps
Veteran of the
Korean War*

Sending Your Thanks

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Take a moment to thank those who keep us safe every day

Sending an encouraging message has never been easier, thanks to email, video upload and social media. Even if you prefer to communicate with old-fashioned letters, it's a great time to take a moment and reach out. Being away from loved ones during the holidays adds another layer of emotion to their everyday sacrifice. Here are three easy ways to express your gratitude.

By Email

Sending an email may seem more impersonal than a handwritten note but for those who you know personally, it's the easiest and fastest way to reach out. Pack your note with lots of news from home, with updates on friends, family and things of local interest. Ask if there is anything you can do to make their service any easier.

They may want you to check on people back home, or send pictures of loved ones or their pets. Close with a note of gratitude. Ask your service member if there are others who may need an encouraging word, and get their

email addresses, too. These warm reminders of home provide welcome distractions anytime, but particularly during the holidays.

By Letter

There's a reason this is such a tried-and-true method of communication with soldiers. Receiving a personal note when you're miles away opens a conversation while providing an instant keepsake. Let them know how important their sacrifice is to everyone back home. Letters also give you a chance to share photos. There are ways to connect, even if you don't have a family member or friend who's serving elsewhere during the holidays.

Military pen-pal services like Forgotten Soldiers Outreach, Operation Gratitude and AnySoldier can connect anyone with service personnel who might appreciate an encouraging note. Begin these notes with generic salutations like "Dear Hero," while thanking them for their service. If you feel comfortable, share stories of your time or a family member's time in the military. Include a return address in case they want to respond.

By Video

Services members may have access to video conferencing software like Skype or Google Meet, which

allows real-time conversations with family and friends. Unreliable internet service might make these connections difficult to

maintain, in particular with overseas military installations, but it's worth the effort to pass along face-to-face holiday greetings.

We Salute Our Veterans

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260-347-4400

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Wayne L. Michael
Wayne served the Army
in Korea, 1952.



Rory D. Young
Air Force, 1989-1992 Airman 1st
Class
Served during Desert Storm
in Saudi Arabia



Wayne E. Kimmel
U.S. Army Private
Missed and loved, your family

The roles of the various branches of the U.S. military

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Each November, people across the United States and its territories honor the brave men and women who serve and have served in the various branches of the country's military. Veterans Day is observed annually every November 11 and honors the service of all U.S. military veterans. The day should not be confused with Memorial Day, which is celebrated each year in May and honors all military personnel who have died in service.

Veterans Day is a great time for anyone to learn more about the various branches of the U.S. military.

Army

The U.S. Department of Defense notes that the Army is the largest and oldest service in the country's military. The Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States. Members of the Army are trained to defeat enemy ground forces and to seize and control

enemy lands and resources. Army also are trained to control and interact with the general population in countries where members are stationed.

Marine Corps.

It might surprise some to learn that the Marine Corps. is a component of the Department of the Navy. That's one reason why maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations. The Marine Corps. is divided into four groups: the operating forces that fight; the headquarters for leadership; the supporting establishment that provides logistical support; and the Marine Corps. Reserve.

Navy

The Navy protects America at sea. Despite its massive land mass, the United States is a maritime nation, which underscores how important a strong Navy is to the safety of the country and its residents. The Navy works alongside



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American allies and partners to keep the seas open and free.

Air Force

The Air Force has five core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and command and control. The Air Force defends the country and its residents in air, space and cyberspace and is capable of delivering forces anywhere in the world within hours.

Space Force

The existence of the Space Force may come as a surprise to many Americans. Organized under the Department of the Air Force and established in 2019, this branch of the military organizes, trains and equips space forces in order to protect the interest of America and its allies in space.

Coast Guard

During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland

Security. In times of war, it operates under the Navy. The Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement as well as environmental protection. In addition to promoting national security, border security and economic prosperity in the maritime environment, the Coast Guard saves those in peril on the sea.

National Guard

The National Guard is comprised of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The National Guard has a diverse array of responsibilities that range from supporting combat missions to responding during domestic emergencies to assisting in humanitarian efforts and more.

The U.S. military is made up various branches, each with its own unique missions and responsibilities. Veterans Day marks the perfect occasion to celebrate the many individuals who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military.

Know Your Military Holidays

Each of these annual commemorations has its own special meaning. The service and risks taken by members of our armed forces while defending America should be remembered year-round. We also have specific holidays dedicated to honoring the military which are spread out across the calendar and highlight their courage, bravery and sacrifice. Unfortunately, some confuse the meanings behind Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and Armed Forces Day. Here's what they recognize:

Armed Forces Day

Held on the third Saturday in May, Armed Forces Day pays tribute to all active personnel in our armed forces. Prior to 1949, each individual branch of the military had its own

day of recognition for those currently serving. Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced a single holiday in conjunction with the unification of all branches under the new Department of Defense. The Army, Air Force and Navy discontinued their specific days, though the Marine Corps Day continues.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service. Originally celebrated on May 30, the date has been permanently moved to the last Monday in May as part of the Congress' Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1971. This holiday was originally called Decoration Day, and commemorated sacrifices made by Civil War soldiers beginning in 1868. A small flag is now placed on each grave at the

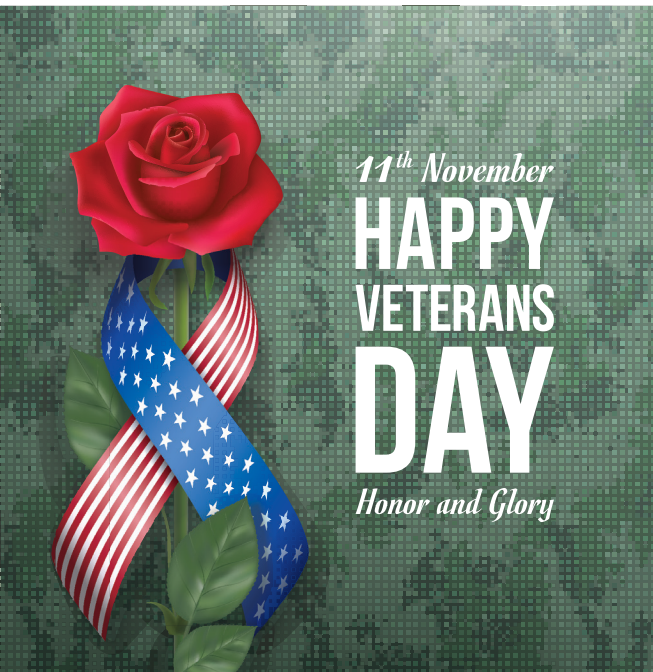
sprawling Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day.

Veteran's Day

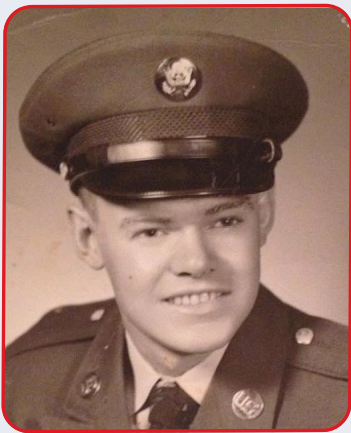
Celebrated annually every Nov. 11, this holiday celebrates American veterans from all wars. The date was originally chosen to commemorate the end of World War I, as Allied Forces and Germany signed an armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. The holiday was originally known as Armistice Day, before being updated to honor all service members in June 1954.

Other Key Dates

Other key military-related dates throughout the year include the Navy Reserve's birthday on March 3, Gold Star Wives Day on April 5, the Air Force Reserve's birthday on April 14, the Army Reserve's birthday on



April 23, the Army's birthday on June 14, the Coast Guard's birthday on Aug. 4, the Air Force's birthday on Sept. 18, Gold Star Spouse's Day and Father's Day on the last Sunday in September, the Navy's birthday on Oct. 13 and the Marine Corps birthday on Nov. 10.



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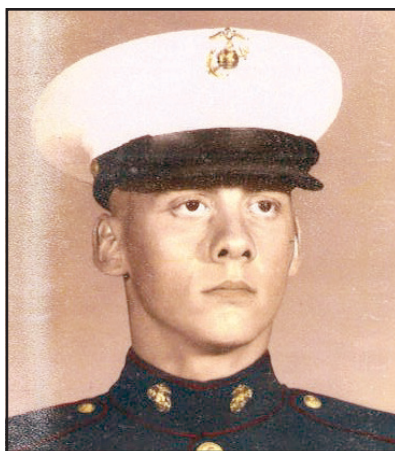
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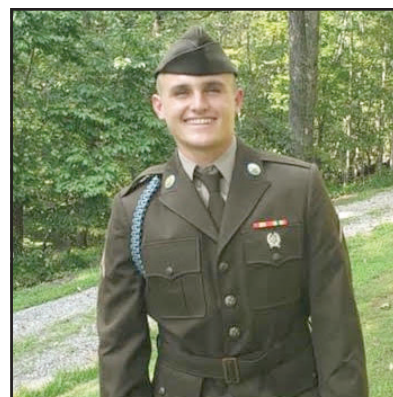
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James William Pierson Jr.
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Vietnam 1969-1971
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I love you, Dinah



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Army Specialist,
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We are very proud of you for your service and the young man that you have become.
Love, Grandma,
Dad and Jason



**Cpt. Ryan Abbott
& Spc. Nick Hartge**
Army Brothers
We love you. Mom & Dad

How to help aging veterans

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

According to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, surveys from the Pew Research Center and the U.S. Census Bureau, there were more than 18 million living military veterans in the United States by the end of 2023. Seventy-two percent of those veterans are age 50 and older, and many served during wartime.

Military personnel make significant sacrifices to protect the freedoms Americans enjoy each day, and it's vital that those efforts are never forgotten, even if it's been decades since service personnel have been on active duty.

Thirty-seven percent of living veterans are age 70 and older, and these brave individuals must face the challenges of aging as well as some, including chronic injuries, that might be traced to their time in the military. That makes helping aging veterans an especially worthy endeavor, and those interested in doing just that can consider the following ideas.

- **Offer your expertise free of charge.** Working professionals can help aging veterans by providing advice or services free of charge or at steep discounts. For example, accountants can offer to prepare and file aging veterans' tax returns free of charge or, if the returns are complicated, at steep discounts. Financial advisors can visit a local veterans hall or home and speak to members or residents about managing money after retirement.

- **Invite veterans over for special events or gatherings.** The Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs reports that veterans who served in the last 30 years make up the largest number of living veterans. Though there are still plenty of veterans who served prior to 1994, they may no longer have extensive social networks as more and more aging veterans pass away. Social connections are vital to long-term health, and researchers at the Center for Healthy Aging at Penn State University found that adults between the ages of 70 and 90 who reported more frequent, pleasant social interactions exhibited improved cognitive performance in the ensuing days. Individuals who want to help aging veterans can invite them over for special events, such as game watches, holiday gatherings or even weekly family meals.

- **Pitch in around the house.** Whether they suffered injuries during their time in the service or not, many aging veterans face the same physical limitations as others approaching or past retirement age. Offer to help aging veterans around the house. Mobility issues can make it hard to mow a lawn, tend to a garden or clean the interior of a home. Such tasks are made much easier when others pitch in, and these gestures can be a great way for families to show their appreciation to the brave individuals who protected the freedoms Americans enjoy each day.

There's no shortage of ways to help aging veterans, many of whom could use a helping hand as they navigate their golden years.



DAR to serve dinner to veterans

FROM STAFF REPORTS

LAGRANGE — The LaGrange de Lafayette Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will host a free dinner for veterans, plus one guest, on Monday, Nov. 11. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 5 p.m. at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church on S.R. 9.

Veterans who wish to attend the dinner may RSVP to this email: darlagrange@gmail.com; or call 260-463-3624 and leave a message.

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a women's service organization

whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War.

Today's DAR has more than 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world.

To learn more about DAR membership, contact darlagrange@gmail.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/LaGrangedeLafayetteNSDAR/>

DeKalb County Veterans Day Parade

GARRETT — The Garrett American Legion is hosting this year's DeKalb County Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, Nov. 9 at noon.

Line up begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Garrett Police/Fire Station at 200 N. Cowen St. and will end at the Garrett American Legion

Post 178 at 515 W. Fifth Ave.

Lunch and a short program will follow for the participants at the Post.

For more information phone the Legion at 357-5133 or Post Commander Brock Diederich at 260-452-0554.





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Dad, Mike & Diane Mapes,
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Robert A. Young
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Airman 2nd Class - Radio Repairman
Duty on Texas Tower 4 - Radar Tower
4 months after getting off tower, it went
down in ocean killing all 28 men on board.

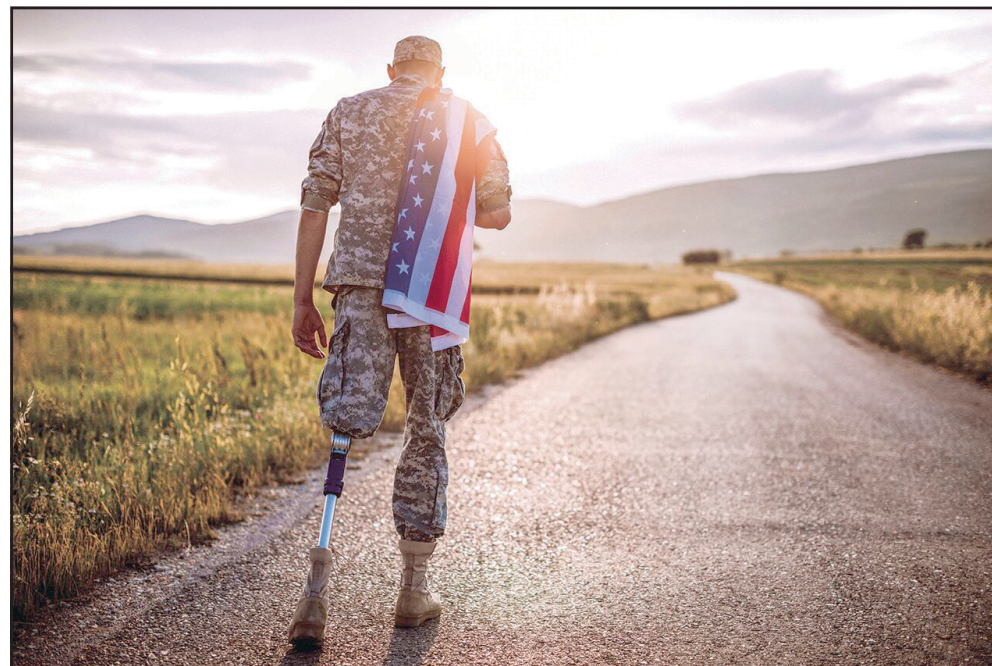
8 ways to honor veterans

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Millions of people make considerable sacrifices to protect the freedoms of their fellow citizens. According to the Pew Research Center and data from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Census Bureau, there are currently more than 18 million living veterans in the United States. The 2021 Census counted 461,240 veterans in Canada, according to Veterans Affairs Canada.

The term "veteran" refers to a person who served in the active military, naval, air service, or space service and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. In the U.S., there are actually five types of protected veterans, according to the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974. Under VEVRAA, a veteran may be classified as a disabled veteran, recently separated veteran, active duty wartime or campaign badge veteran, or Armed Forces service medal veteran.

Veterans deserve respect and admiration all year long, but also get their own holiday each November.



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Veterans Day celebrates veterans' patriotism and willingness to sacrifice and serve. This Veterans Day, people can consider these eight unique ways to honor the veterans in their community.

1. Attend events.

Organize or participate in local Veterans Day celebrations, such as parades and ceremonial events.

2. Get involved with veterans' affairs. Support

veterans by volunteering with organizations that assist them, such as the VA, local veteran's groups, VA hospitals, or charities dedicated to veteran services.

3. Petition for veteran speakers. Reach out to schools, scout troops or other groups and arrange opportunities for veterans to share their stories and contributions. Learning about the sacrifices these

men and women made can heighten individuals' appreciation for veterans.

4. Support the families of veterans. Reach out to veterans' families, who also must make sacrifices and concessions. Anything from shopping, babysitting, doing chores, or making a meal can help the families of veterans.

5. Make a donation. If finances allow, make contributions to reputable charities

that provide services for veterans like those that offer mental health counseling or job placement services. If there isn't a charity that fits with your vision, begin one.

6. Hire veterans to work. If you are a business owner or hiring manager, consider hiring veterans for open positions at your company. It can be challenging to re-enter the workforce after service, so make it known that your firm welcomes veterans.

7. Offer personal acknowledgements. Take the time to speak to veterans and thank them for their service. If possible, when dining out, ask the server if you can pay for the meal of a veteran who also is dining that day.

8. Don't forget the fallen veterans. Although Memorial Day is designed to honor those who lost their lives through military service, people still can honor the fallen veterans on Veterans Day by sharing stories or placing flags at veteran cemeteries.

Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11, marking an opportunity to express one's gratitude and support for the scores of veterans who have served honorably.

NE Indiana Veterans Service offices

Veterans services at DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben are offered free of charge at the following sits

Contact information for each office is as follows:

DeKalb County Veteran Service Officer Rhonda Hunkler, 260-925-0131

LaGrange County Veteran Service Officer Allen Connelly, 260-499-6387

Noble County Veteran Service Officer Mike Clouse, 260-636-1298

Steuben County Veteran Service Officer Alex Dobson,

260-668-1000 ext. 1060.

Veterans Support Group (VETERANS 4 LIFE) meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. The group provides a unique opportunity for encouragement and to share common experiences and challenges. Meeting begin at 4 p.m. at 1752 Wesley Rd., Auburn at the Northeast Center Community Health and Outreach Center. Contact Tamara Goodman, U.S. Army Veteran at 260-610-0389 for information.

St. Joseph School to honor veterans

GARRETT — All veterans are invited to join an Appreciation Parade on Nov. 11 hosted by St. Joseph School and staff.

Veterans will drive by the school in their vehicles as student and staff are lined up outside of the school to thank them and hand out special treats.

Cars will line up at 9:45 a.m. facing north on Ijams Street in front of St. Joseph Church. The driving

procession will begin at 10 a.m. driving north on Ijams Street and then east on Houston Street in front of the school at 301 W. Houston Street.

An RSVP is not required but helpful in order to plan for snacks by phoning 357-5137 or by email at office@stjosephgarrett.org.

In case of rain, all veterans are invited inside the school gym for snacks.



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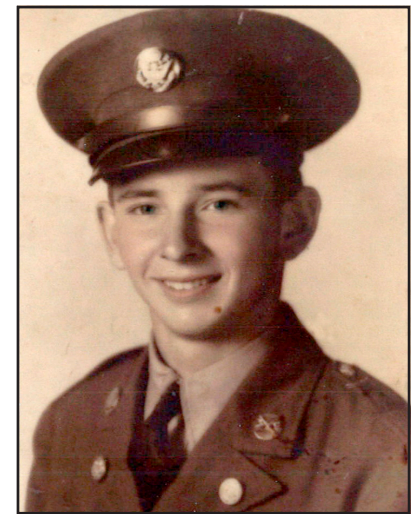
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and Grandfather

Veterans Day speech from DAV

BY DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

This November 11th marks seventy years of celebrating Veterans Day.

Since its creation in 1954, we have sent millions more to war. Service members fought in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan and served in harm's way in numerous other climes and places. And many more answered the call, here and across the world, to ensure America stands ready to defend its national security and our freedoms and interests.

How many others will raise their hands in service to our nation over the next seventy years? How will they be called to defend it? How much will they and their families sacrifice in doing so?

Those are questions we can imagine but can't possibly answer. We can hope for peace, foster it and advocate for it, but we cannot stop the wheels of war. We can pray for every man and woman to return from service healthy and uninjured, but we cannot guarantee it.



The unknown is what demands such bravery from those who answer the call. In return for that bravery, we as a nation commit to a sacred promise: to make whole those forever changed by service.

Let this 70th Veterans Day be a reminder of what we can do—what duty and gratitude require of us.

Saying thank you to veterans you encounter is a good place to start and a worthy practice to adopt. It's a simple gesture but one that reminds veterans they're seen and appreciated.

When one veteran recognizes another, it reminds both they're not alone.

That thank-you also reminds us—civilian and veteran alike—that we have a promise to uphold. Do not let that reminder go unheeded.

While the thought



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

of upholding a national promise might seem daunting—after all, you're just one person—we owe it to those who served to face that task with courage. And luckily, there are organizations where "just one person" quickly becomes an entire community united by a common goal.

Organizations like DAV and its Auxiliary.

Founded over a century ago, DAV is a national organization representing nearly one million men and women changed by military service. Our purpose is simple: to empower veterans to lead high-quality lives with

respect and dignity.

The DAV Auxiliary is an extension of that work, with nearly a quarter-million members dedicated to the same purpose.

We fulfill our mission through a slate of programs and services that provide comprehensive, lifelong support, including benefits

SEE DAV, Page A23

Charities whose missions support veterans, active military and their families

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The support Americans have for their armed forces is evident in how much they donate each year to charities with military-related missions. According to Charity Navigator, Americans donate more than \$2.5 billion annually to charities with missions dedicated to the military.

Individuals who want to donate to a charitable organization with a military-related mission may not know where to start, and that can be daunting given the number of organizations that fit that criteria. Charity Navigator indicates there are more than 40,000 American charities with military-related missions, which underscores how difficult it can be to find one to support. Thankfully, Charity Navigator, which has provided donors with free access to data, tools and resources to guide their philanthropic decision-making since 2001, has curated a list of highly rated organizations that provide a variety of services to military members and their families. The following is a brief rundown of that list that can serve as a solid foundation for prospective donors. The full list can be found at charitynavigator.org.

Wounded Troops

- Air Warrior Courage Foundation (airwarriorcourage.org)
- DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Charitable Service Trust (cst.dav.org)
- Fisher House Foundation (fisherhouse.org)

- Higher Ground (highergroundusa.org)
- Homes for Our Troops (hforusa.org)
- K9s for Warriors (k9sforwarriors.org)
- Operation Second Chance (operationsecondchance.org)
- Wounded Warrior Project (woundedwarriorproject.org)
- Yellow Ribbon Fund (yellowribbonfund.org)
- Military Social Services
- AMVETS National Service Foundation (amvetsnsf.org)
- Hire Heroes USA (hireheroesusa.org)
- Honor Flight Network (honorflight.org)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (iava.org)
- Operation Gratitude (operationgratitude.com)
- Operation Healing Forces (operationhealingforces.org)
- Soldiers' Angels (soldiersangels.org)
- The Mission Continues (missioncontinues.org)
- Military Family Support
- Army Emergency Relief (armyemergencyrelief.org)
- Blue Star Families (bluestarfam.org)
- Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation (fallenpatriots.org)
- Folds of Honor (foldsofhonor.org)
- Operation Homefront (operationhomefront.org)
- Our Military Kids (ourmilitarykids.org)
- Travis Manion Foundation (travismanion.org)
- VFW National Home for Children (vfwnationalhome.org)

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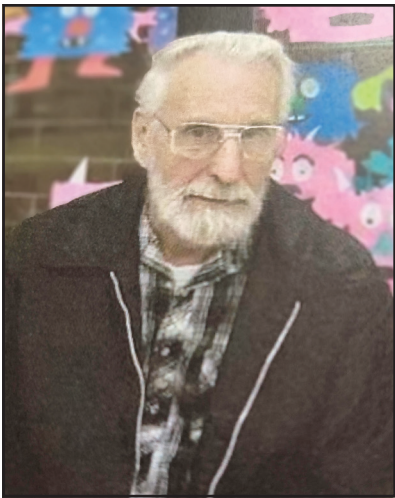
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Pat Frain
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country in Vietnam.



Kate Mapes
Lieutenant Commander,
Navy
Thanks for your service.
Proud of you and Andy.
Love, Mom & Dad Mapes



New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A – February 4, 2020 –
Close up of the U.S Airforce medals of honor



GREEN SHOOT MEDAL

What the Medals Mean

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Here's how to decode the incredible accomplishments each represents

Service personnel typically only wear their medals on special occasions. Otherwise, they're likely displayed at home or perhaps tucked away in a drawer. Those humble settings don't adequately tell the stories of bravery and valor behind each and every

medal.

Familiarize yourself with their meaning before gathering at the family dinner table during the holidays. You'll have an entirely new appreciation for the sacrifices your relatives made in service of our country.

Medal Of Honor

The nation's highest military honor awarded by

Congress is presented by the president, and honors conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. The medal was introduced in 1861, which created the Navy's Medal of Honor. Specific medals now exist for the Navy and Marine Corps, the Army, Air and Space Forces, and the Coast Guard.

The Purple Heart

This medal is awarded in recognition and thankfulness to those who have been wounded in combat. Those who are eligible for a Purple Heart include anyone who served on or after April 5, 1917, when the U.S. joined other Allied Forces in World War I. Families of fallen troops also commonly receive this award to honor their ultimate sacrifice for

our country.

Distinguished Service Cross

The distinguished service cross is the nation's second-highest award for military valor, and is awarded for acts of bravery that do not rise to the level of a Medal of Honor. The medal was established in 1918, and follows the Medal of Honor's

SEE MEDALS, Page A22

Veterans event coming to CLC

BY MATT GETTS

mgetts@kpcmedia.com

KENDALLVILLE —

Reading history is one thing. Being able to touch artifacts makes it so much more.

The Kendallville Heritage Association is hosting the Celebrating Vets event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Community Learning Center in Kendallville.

The free event will include 36 exhibits of personal memorabilia from conflicts ranging from the Civil War to World War II all the way up to the latest conflicts U.S. veterans have taken part in.

Jim Swartzlander put together a similar program in 2022.

He wanted to pass the baton to someone else in 2023, but it never materialized. After giving it some thought, Swartzlander decided to bring back the celebration.

"I thought, 'Let's just do it,'" Swartzlander said. "It's been fun."

The Celebrating Vets event will honor all from the area who served regardless of their war or age. This may be the last time some are available to share, and for others it will be the first time. It is open to the community to visit with and look at each veteran's memorabilia, including personal letters.

Being able to see a picture of a local veteran in their uniform, to see the patches they wore or the medals they won creates a different perspective than merely reading about the history in a book.

"It's so important these stories are told," Swartzlander said. "People can see that history. It makes it come alive."

By late last week, Swartzlander had eight organizations signed up to participate, too. Among the organizations will be Honor Flight, Lutheran Family Military Services and the Daughters



CONTRIBUTED

Guy Swartzlander's photograph, taken Sept. 15, 1942, shows men from Noble County who were in military service. Guy was a jeweler in Kendallville after the war. His son, Jim is coordinating a special Celebrate Vets program to be held from

of the American Revolution.

Barb Morrow's book, "Army Guy Red Cross Girl: The Lives and Letters of Two Small Town Hoosiers Who Helped Win the War" will also be on hand. Other diaries and letters will be available for first-hand accounts, like the Red Ball Express.

It's a personal time for the community to say, "Thank you for your service."

Refreshments and places to sit and chat will be available.

Swartzlander said some veterans are hesitant to share their experiences for any number of reasons.

"A lot of people don't want to be thanked for it," he said.

But events like Celebrating Vets are important to keep the memories alive for current and future generations.

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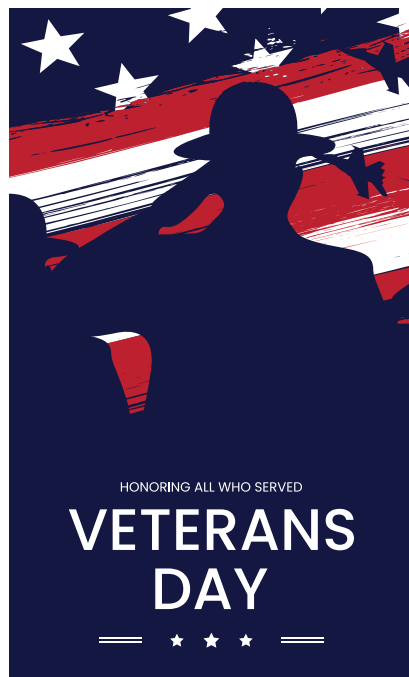
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These states are home to the greatest percentage of U.S. veterans

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

By the end of 2023, the United States was home to more than 18 million individuals who had served in the country's military. That figure, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Department of Veterans Affairs and surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center, represents individuals from all walks of life.

Veterans come from diverse personal backgrounds, and they also call a wide range of states home. The USCB reports that some state populations feature a greater percentage of veterans than others. The share of the adult population that has served in the U.S. military is highest in these 10 states.

1. Alaska: More than 10 percent of Alaska's 533,000 adult residents have served in the military.

2. Wyoming: The 2020 U.S. Census indicated Wyoming is the least populated state in the country. Despite that, the Equality State is home to a



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

veteran population of just over 42,000, which accounts for roughly 9.4 percent of the state's adult population.

3. Virginia: Perhaps not surprising given its proximity to the nation's capital, Virginia is home to a sizable veteran population that accounts for 9.2 percent of its roughly 6.68 million

adults.

4. Maine: Though it's another state like Wyoming that does not boast an especially large adult population (a little more than 1.1 million individuals), Maine is home to more than 101,000 veterans.

5. Montana: The Treasure State features an adult

population of just under 884,000, and 8.9 percent of those individuals (roughly 79,000 people) served in the U.S. military.

6. South Carolina: The Palmetto State is home to more than 344,600 veterans, and those individuals make up just under 8.5 percent of the state's adult population.

7. Nevada: Among the roughly 2.5 million adults who call Nevada home, nearly 206,000 (roughly 8.3 percent) are veterans.

8. New Mexico: More than 136,000 veterans live in The Land of Enchantment, accounting for 8.3 percent of the state's adult population.

9. South Dakota: Like Alaska, Wyoming and Montana, South Dakota does not boast a particularly large adult population (roughly 685,000). However, more than 8.2 percent of adults who live in The Mount Rushmore State are U.S. military veterans.

10. Hawaii: The Aloha State rounds out the top 10, as the island state in the Pacific Ocean is home to nearly 90,000 U.S. military veterans, which accounts for 8.2 percent of its total adult population.

This Veterans Day, individuals in all 50 states are urged to thank local veterans for their sacrifices and service.

Patriotic Displays

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Show off your pride in America, but don't forget the rules

Displaying the flag outside your home is one of the most common ways we celebrate our country and the military's commitment to service. But before you do, familiarize yourself with the regulations found in the U.S. Flag Code. There are specific ways Old Glory is to be handled, displayed and retired from service.

Inside The Code

The U.S. Flag Code was approved in June 1923, and is meant to guide patriotic residents through every step of the process. Each element of the code ensures that the flag is treated with the dignity and respect befitting this symbol of our nation. All of the following rules are found in text from United States Code Title 4 Chapter 1.

Outdoor Rules

Correctly flying Old Glory during the holiday season involves following a few simple rules. The banner should only be on display from sunrise to

sunset, unless the building or outdoor staff is brightly lit. American flags should be flown at the peak of a staff or stationary pole, unless they have been ordered to half-staff. Purchase flags that are marked for all weather, since they are more durable in rain and wind and more resistant to fading or tearing.

Flying At Half-Staff

American flags are supposed to be flown at the peak of your staff or pole. There are regular occasions, however, when it's to be lowered halfway down – including Memorial Day, which honors military members who died in action. Elected officials may also order flags to half-staff when there has been a local or national tragedy, the death of a high-ranking official, or during a national emergency.

Retiring The Flag

If your banner has begun to deteriorate over time, it's important to retire it with all due respect. The U.S. Flag Code provides strict guidelines. The flag should be folded, then burned in a fire

that is intense enough to completely consume the material. As it burns, citizens should participate in a brief moment of

silence, say the Pledge of Allegiance or simply salute the flag. Once the banner has completely burned, be sure to safely extinguish

the ashes. If you have more questions, contact your local VFW post to find out more about local flag-burning ceremonies.

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Holiday Viewing

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Mix in some patriotic movies among your traditional Yuletide favorites

There are plenty

of thought-provoking military-themed movies to be enjoyed, from 1970's "Patton" and 1986's "Platoon" to 1998's "Saving Private Ryan" and 2012's

"Lincoln." But this time of year offers us all an opportunity to honor the particular sacrifices made by those who are serving in the military away from

home and family during the holiday season.

Of course, time spent apart during this special time has always sparked films — as well as books and songs — but the plight of our service members and their loved ones has garnered an increasing spotlight lately.

Tributes to their service have proliferated in patriotic holiday movies, perhaps most consistently on the Hallmark channel. The network's patriotic holiday movies include "Christmas Bedtime Stories" (2022), "USS Christmas" (2021), "Five More Minutes" (2021), "Operation Christmas Drop" (2020), "A Homecoming for the Holidays" (2019), "Write Before Christmas" (2019), "Time for You to Come Home for Christmas" (2019), "Christmas Homecoming" (2017), "Home for Christmas Day" (2017) and "The Christmas Note" (2015), among others.

Filmed on location in Norfolk, Virginia, "USS Christmas" was written by TV news correspondent Andrea Canning, who is married to an ex-Marine Corps fighter pilot. "Five More Minutes" is set around the former Fort

Bragg, and was inspired by a song of the same name by Scott McCreery, winner of the 10th season of "American Idol."

If you're more interested in the classics, cue up 1954's Michael Curtis-directed "White Christmas" movie-musical starring Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney and Danny Kaye, among others. Crosby and Kaye run into their former Major General while traveling as musical performers — only to discover that he's now penniless. They band together to raise money for their former officer, and to raise some Christmas cheer, as well.

Director Billy Wilder's '50s-era "Stalag 17" starred Oscar-winner William Holden as a World War II prisoner of war and was set during the holiday season. The star of 1946's "It's a Wonderful Life," James Stewart, is a World War II veteran, unlike his character George Bailey. Stewart was heralded as the first American movie star to enlist, joining at age 33. More recently, 1992's "A Midnight Clear" told the fictional account of a brief Christmas truce between American and German soldiers just before World War II's furious Battle of the Bulge.



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Interesting facts about Remembrance Day

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Canadians observe Remembrance Day each year on November 11. Once known as Armistice Day, Remembrance Day honors deceased military members, living veterans and current armed forces personnel.

Millions will observe Remembrance Day this November, and the following facts can help them gain a greater understanding of the holiday.

- Remembrance Day has a lengthy history in Canada. Armistice Day was first commemorated in Canada in 1919, when King George V urged all countries in the British Commonwealth, including Canada, to observe the day.

- The name of the holiday was changed from Armistice Day to Remembrance Day in 1931.

- The choice to commemorate the holiday that eventually became Remembrance Day on November 11 has symbolic meaning. According to the Government of Canada, the choice reflects the signing of the armistice agreement on November 11, 1918, which called for an end to hostilities at 11 a.m. — which happens to be the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The armistice ended World War I, though fighting continued for hours after the agreement was reached and the Treaty of Versailles, which was the formal peace treaty that ended the war, was not signed until 1919.

- The poppy symbolizes



Remembrance Day. Though the red poppy symbolizes Memorial Day in the United States, where Veterans Day is observed on November 11, the poppy is worn in Canada on Remembrance Day to honor fallen service members.

- The poppy has Canadian roots, as a 1915 poem referred to the fields of poppies growing around the graves of World War I soldiers in Flanders. That poem was written by a Canadian Lieutenant Colonel named John McCrae.

- A national ceremony is held each year at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. The Governor General of Canada, who presides over the ceremony, and the Prime Minister are among the notable officials to attend each year.

- A column of veterans, members of the Canadian Armed forces, officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, cadets march to the memorial.

- France, Belgium, Poland, and the United Kingdom also observe Remembrance Day on November 11.



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Paying Your Respects

BY GREEN SHOOT MEDIA

Consider a holiday trip that honors our soldiers' ultimate sacrifices

With time off each year, there's ample opportunity to schedule visits to monuments and memorials that honor America's fallen service members. Here are several recommendations, found from one side of the country to another — with a few stops in between.

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, Virginia

Our country's best-known military cemetery sits on land once owned by Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Arlington National is the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of military veterans and their dependents. Visitors are encouraged to visit the solemn Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a white marble sarcophagus created in 1921 to recognize anonymous service members who were killed in action.

Elsewhere, you will find the graves of former presidents John F. Kennedy and William Howard Taft, among others.

National Memorial Arch

Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

The fledgling Continental Army struggled through a

brutal winter in 1777-78, as more than 2,500 soldiers lost their lives due to disease, exposure and starvation at their encampment in Valley Forge. The National Memorial Arch honors their service and their memory. Of course, Valley Forge is also known as the spot where Gen. George Washington's war-turning advance later began.

National World War I Museum And Memorial

Kansas City, Missouri

The Liberty Memorial opened in 1926, and was designated by Congress as the country's official World War I memorial in 2004. Exhibits retrace the Great War and related events from 1914 through the peace conference in 1919 in Paris.

National World War II Museum

New Orleans, Louisiana

Formerly known as the National D-Day Museum, this facility was likewise designated as the nation's official World War II memorial by Congress in 2004. Rotating exhibits are paired with an impressive array of memorabilia. The museum was built in New Orleans to recognize the city's role in winning the war in Europe: Amphibious

SEE RESPECT, Page A22



FRANK LEE



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Guidelines for Display of the Flag

BY THE AMERICAN LEGION

Public Law 94-344, known as the Federal Flag Code, contains rules for

handling and displaying the U.S. flag. While the federal code contains no penalties for misusing the flag, states

have their own flag codes and may impose penalties. The language of the federal code makes clear that the

flag is a living symbol.

In response to a Supreme Court decision which held that a state law prohibiting flag burning was unconstitutional, Congress enacted the Flag Protection Act in 1989. It provides that anyone who knowingly desecrates the flag may be fined and/or imprisoned for up to one year. However, this law was challenged by the Supreme Court in a 1990 decision that the Flag Protection Act violates the First Amendment free speech protections.

Important Things to Remember

Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness. The flag should not be subject to weather damage, so it should not be displayed during rain, snow and wind storms unless it is an all-weather flag.

It should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays and special occasions.

The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools during school days, and polling places on election days. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

The flag should never be draped or drawn back in folds. Draped red, white and blue bunting should be used for decoration, with the blue at the top and red at the bottom.

The flag may be flown at half-staff to honor a newly deceased federal or state government official by order of the president or the governor, respectively. On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon.

Other Things Not to Do with the Flag

Out of respect for the

U.S. flag, never:

- dip it for any person or thing, even though state flags, regimental colors and other flags may be dipped as a mark of honor;
- display it with the union down, except as a signal of distress;
- let the flag touch anything beneath it: ground, floor, water, merchandise. carry it horizontally, but always aloft. fasten or display it in a way that will permit it to be damaged or soiled;
- place anything on the flag, including letters, insignia, or designs of any kind;
- use it for holding anything;
- use it as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should not be used on a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be attached to the uniform of patriotic organizations, military personnel, police officers and firefighters; and
- use the flag for advertising or promotion purposes or print it on paper napkins, boxes or anything else intended for temporary use and discard.

During the hoisting or lowering of the flag or when it passes in parade or review, Americans should stand at attention facing the flag and place their right hand over the heart. Uniformed military members render the military salute. Men not in uniform should remove any headdress and hold it with their right hand at their left shoulder, the hand resting over the heart. Those who are not U.S. citizens should stand at attention.

When the flag is worn out or otherwise no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.



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A day to honor all veterans

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The month of November is a special time for the nation's veterans. While Memorial Day honors fallen soldiers and service people, Veteran's Day, which takes place each November, is an opportunity to commemorate the efforts of all who have been in the armed forces, with a special emphasis on living veterans. While people are encouraged to thank veterans throughout the year, Veteran's Day is a particularly poignant time to show your appreciation for the men and women of the military.

Veteran's Day takes place on November 11 and marks an important moment in history. On November 11, 1918, World War I, known at the time as "The Great War," unofficially ended when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, took place between Germany and the Allied nations on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. World War I ended on paper when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Armistice Day became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. However, after subsequent wars, including World War II and

the Korean War, veterans' service organizations lobbied for Armistice Day to be revised so it would be more inclusive of all veterans. On June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation to strike the word "Armistice" from the holiday's name in favor of "Veterans."

Since then, November 11 has been known as “Veterans Day” and has honored veterans of all wars.

Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday in October for roughly seven years under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which sought to ensure three-day weekends for federal employees by celebrating certain national holidays on Mondays. But since November 11 bore such significance, many states disapproved and continued to observe the holiday on November 11. In 1975, President Gerald Ford signed legislation to return the observation of Veterans Day to November 11 beginning in 1978. Should the day fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the federal government observes the holiday on the previous Friday or following Monday, respectively, according to History.com.

The United States isn't the only country to celebrate its veterans. Canada, Great Britain, Australia, and France also commemorate the veterans of World War I and II on or near November 11 as Remembrance Day or Remembrance Sunday.

Supporting All Veterans

The public is invited to these events:

Texas Hold' Em Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

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JEFF JONES

This unit from Hamilton American Legion Post 467 displayed multiple flags as it drove along the route for the 2023 Veterans Day parade.

RESPECT

FROM PAGE A18

boats used to transport troops were designed and built by the local Higgins Industries.

Uss Arizona Memorial Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii

Nearly 2,000 crewmen died when the USS Arizona took a direct hit during the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that drew America into World War II. The shipwreck was declared a national shrine in 1962, and now honors those who were killed on a date

which President Franklin D. Roosevelt rightly said “will live in infamy.”

National Medal Of Honor Heritage Center

Chattanooga, Tennessee
Officially opened on Feb. 22, 2020, the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center serves as a lasting tribute to the recipients of the first Medals of Honor and all recipients since. The center reverently underscores both the heritage of the Medal of Honor and the sacrifices made by various recipients from the Civil War to the Global War on Terror.

MEDALS

FROM PAGE A12

rules by having separate recognition for the Army, the Navy (the Navy Cross, which includes the Marine Corps), the Air Force and Space Force (Air Force Cross) and Coast Guard (Coast Guard Cross).

Silver Star

The third-highest decoration for members of our armed forces recognizes gallantry in action with

requirements below those of branch-specific service crosses and the Medal of Honor.

Distinguished Service Medal

This medal was established in 1918 and is awarded for meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility. The Army Distinguished Service Medal was established in 1918, followed by similar medals for the other branches of the armed forces.

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DAV

FROM PAGE A10

assistance, employment resources, caregiver aid and legislative advocacy.

What's particularly special about the work we do at DAV is that it isn't just for veterans and their families—it's done in large part by veterans and their families. What's more empowering than that?

In April, DAV launched its first-ever Community Impact Day. Through this initiative, more than 700 people pledged at least one hour of their time to volunteer for veterans in communities across the country.

In Georgia, Army veteran and DAV Chapter 55 member Anthony Prince cleaned veterans' grave markers at Lawnwood Memorial Park.

In Minnesota, 10 DAV volunteers helped Hazel Lewis, the spouse of a disabled veteran, by cleaning up her yard and fixing exterior railings around her home.

In Tennessee, Army veteran Kenny Belew and eight other volunteers collected over 1,000 pounds of food donations for DAV Chapter 39's food pantry.

In Florida, Chapter 16 members visited veterans at senior living facilities around the Orlando area. They also brought care packages and information about veterans benefits.

And in Kentucky, DAV Auxiliary National Adjutant Bunny Clos helped distribute cookies made by a local bakery to veterans in her community.

That is thank-you in action. And it's just a tiny fraction of what countless others—veterans, their families and civilians—do every day in the name of DAV's mission.

In 2023 alone, DAV volunteers logged millions of hours in VA hospitals and communities nationwide. That includes those dedicated servants here in

Northeast Indiana.

This Veterans Day, I urge you to ask yourself how you can help keep the promise to America's veterans. Start in our own community, like those you just learned about.

But also know that it doesn't have to end there. With an organization like DAV, there are opportunities to make far-reaching impacts beyond your backyard. Just look to the two groundbreaking special reports we released this year.

The first, Women Veterans: The Journey to Mental Wellness, put a spotlight on the unique factors contributing to the staggering rates of suicide among women veterans. It identified gaps in care and showed how the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system—which was literally designed for men—must do better for women veterans.

The second report, Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans, revealed an enduring legacy of failure by the VA and Congress to adequately care for veterans made ill by toxic exposures in service. It proposes a blueprint for dramatically reforming the system in a way that ensures timely, equitable access to lifesaving care and benefits.

Importantly, both reports included personal stories from veterans. They showed us the human toll of the issues and offered invaluable perspective for solutions.

And when it came time to turn these reports into action, DAV turned to veterans and their families—and they delivered. They rallied in their own communities, presenting the reports' findings and recommendations to leaders at their local VA facilities.

They talked to their elected representatives at the state and national levels.

They educated fellow veterans and hosted special

events.

When the recommendations DAV put forth in both reports become laws and policies, know that it was because of veterans and supporters like you.

And it's never too late to get involved. The work continues, and we need

more of you to help us carry it forward.

To those veterans here today, thank you. To the mothers, fathers, spouses and children of our military men and women, thank you. And to all of those who show your gratitude through action,

thank you.

It is my privilege to recognize you. To serve you is a duty I am honored to uphold.

God bless you all, and God bless the United States of America.

Disabled American Veterans and DAV Auxiliary



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We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all veterans—those who have served and those who continue to serve our great nation. Your courage, dedication, and sacrifice protect the freedoms we hold dear. Today, we honor you, not only for your service but for the legacy of strength and resilience you’ve imparted to generations.

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Benjamin Disraeli



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