

AMVETS Suggested Veterans Day Remarks 2018

Since the founding of our country, man many millions of men and women have served in the United States military. But precious few still with us were on active duty on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in the year 1918, Armistice Day, the day we now mark to celebrate our veterans. But make no mistake about it. Every veteran has made their contribution to the country and earned its gratitude.

Veterans Day is a celebration of the mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters all over the country and in all of our lives who have served or are serving. It's a day of joy. And yet, on every Veterans Day, we cannot help but also solemnly remember the fallen.

Our national observance of Veterans Day is always held at Arlington National Cemetery, among the graves of many thousands of our veterans, some who lived long into old age, and some just teenagers who gave their lives on the battlefield.

Not every veteran has been exposed to the crucible of combat, but most any veteran of any and all eras will tell you that their time in uniform was one of the most important in shaping their lives. They'll credit their time in the military with instilling in them virtues such as discipline and loyalty that have been a part of their character ever since. They'll talk about a bond that joins all of them, from all branches of service, together. Whether drafted or enlisted, commissioned or non-commissioned, each took an oath, lived by a code, and stood ready to defend our nation.

In so many ways, our veterans have shaped the lives we live today as well as the world in which we live them. Today is our day for honoring them, and there are many appropriate ways to show them our love, respect and appreciation.

We honor them, first of all, of course, by remembering them and their accomplishments and their sacrifices. We also honor our veterans by cherishing the veterans in our lives as well as cherishing the freedoms they sacrificed to defend.

We honor our veterans by insisting that our nation live up to Abraham Lincoln's promise "to care for him who should have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans," and we honor them by never ceasing the search for those missing who have yet to come home.

But finally, this Veterans Day, we honor our veterans by celebrating their day not just with solemnity, but with heartfelt joy and appreciation for the veterans in our lives, and for the pride our entire country feels for them on this, the day we set aside just for them, our national Veterans' Day.