



## Veterans Day

**Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. Let’s help each other expand our civic literacy.**

It came to be known as World War One, but at the time it was known as [War to End All Wars](#), and it ended at 11am on November 11, 1918. On this day, the world laid down its arms, ending the bloody horrors of the World War. One year later, on the first anniversary of the end of hostilities, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson issued a [proclamation](#) commemorating [Armistice Day](#).

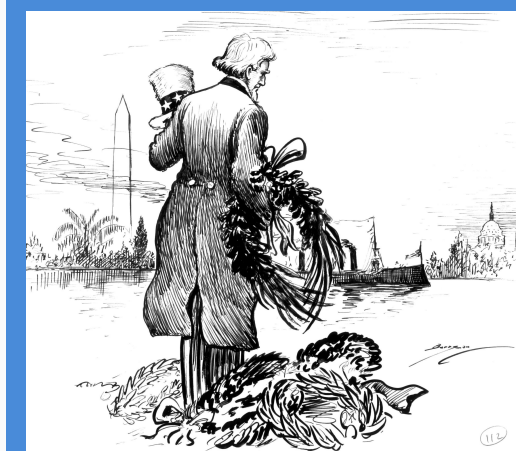
*"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with lots of pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."*

- [President Woodrow Wilson](#)

On May 13, 1938, Congress passed legislation making Armistice Day a federal holiday, dedicated to honoring the veterans of the World War. Sadly, this World War that so horrified everyone they swore there would never be another was followed by the even more brutal [World War Two](#) and then the [Korean War](#). As a result, in 1954 the US Congress amended the original Armistice Day Act, [changing](#) ‘Armistice Day’ to ‘Veterans Day’ in order to honor all who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces. President Eisenhower [declared](#) that "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose."

On November 11th, we [honor and recognize](#) those who have served our nation in the armed forces through parades, school assemblies, and other national events. These men and women have, in the words of the [Oath of Enlistment](#), volunteered to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, bearing full faith and allegiance to that founding document. They serve as role models of civic participation, fulfilling one of the most important responsibilities of citizenship.

**To Think and To Do:** What does it mean to be a veteran? Identify teachers and staff at your school who are veterans and, with their permission, ask them what it means to be a veteran. Summarize what you learned in a poster that honors their service.



In Memorandum  
by, Clifford K. Berryman



Orlando Veterans Day Parade

**Learn MORE** about Veterans Day. Free registration may be required.

- [The History of Veterans Day](#), from the Veterans Administration
- [Five Facts About Veterans Day](#), from the Department of Defense
- [Understanding the Difference Between Memorial Day and Veterans Day](#), from the United Service Organizations