

The Origins of Veterans Day

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as *Armistice Day*.

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was *the War to end all Wars*, November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

ARMISTICE DAY CHANGED TO HONOR ALL VETERANS

Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of WW II and Korea, Congress was requested to make this day an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. In 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1973, a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War, but none was found for several years. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from that conflict was placed alongside the others. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, The 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

NATIONAL CEREMONIES HELD AT ARLINGTON

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11th, a combined color guard representing all military services executes *Present Arms* at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays *taps*.

Every year the President of the United States urges [All Americans](#) to honor the commitment of our Veterans through appropriate public ceremonies.

Veterans Day

November 11, 2011



Ceremonies Held At Site Of
Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial
(Located in Webb Park)

Arranged by the
R.B. Veterans Memorial Association
Through the combined Efforts of

**The Military Order
of the World Wars**

General J.P. Holland Chapter

And the

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7766





Captain Stewart G. Elliott, USN
Chief of Staff,
Navy Special Warfare Command

Captain Elliott is a native of Boulder, Colorado and graduate of the University of Colorado NROTC Program. Following his commissioning as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy, he was assigned to Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL Training in January 1985, graduating with Class 133 in July 1985.

He attended the University of Colorado, National University, and the Naval War College, earning a Bachelor's Degree, Master Degree in Public Administration, and a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Additionally, he completed over 20 military/civilian schools.

His operational tours include SEAL Teams Three, Four, and Five, Naval Special Warfare Unit's Two and Three, SDV Team Two and Joint Special Operations Command deputy Chief of Operations. He commanded Naval Special Warfare Unit Three, SEAL Team Four, and Naval Special Warfare Unit Two.

Captain Elliott's shore duty has included both the Naval War College and the Joint Forces Staff College, as well as serving as the Naval Special Warfare Center Diving Phase Officer, Director of Training. He also commanded the Naval Special Warfare Center.

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (two awards), Bronze Star Medal (two awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards) and various unit and service awards.



VETERANS DAY

Schedule of Events



10:30 a.m. Patriotic Musical Prelude 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band

11:00 a.m. MEMORIAL PROGRAM Introduction
— Master of Ceremonies —

Rear Admiral Richard K. Fontaine, USN (RET)
Vice President, Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association

- Invocation** Capt Dave Korinek, CA Mil Res Chaplain Corps
- Presentation of the Colors** Color Guard MCAS Miramar
- Pledge of Allegiance** Col David Epstein, AUS (Ret)
Commander, Gen J. P. Holland Chapter, MOWW
- National Anthem** 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band
- Posting of Service Flags** Members of VFW Post 7766 and
General J.P. Holland Chapter, MOWW
- Introduction of Principal Speaker** RADM R. K. Fontaine, USN (RET), VP, RBVMA
- Remarks** Captain Stewart G. Elliott, USN
Chief of Staff, Navy Special Warfare Command
- Retire the Colors** Color Guard MCAS Miramar
- Benediction** Capt Dave Korinek, CA Mil Res Chaplain Corps
- Patriotic Music** 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band

The community and the R.B. Veterans Memorial Association sincerely appreciates the contributions to this ceremony by members of the VFW and the MOWW and the U.S. Marine Corps. We also thank Boy Scout Troop 685 for their service in distributing these programs at our ceremony.



A limited number of 4" by 6" bronze plaques for recognition of individual veterans are available for installation at the Veterans Memorial site. Donations to the Veterans Memorial are tax deductible. Call John Cantor for further information at (858) 485-5446