



VETERANS DAY

EVERY YEAR, MILLIONS OF AMERICANS CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY, A DAY TO COMMEMORATE AND HONOR OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN. BUT WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF VETERANS DAY? AND WHAT DOES THE AVERAGE VETERAN LOOK LIKE?

HISTORY

NOVEMBER 11, 1918: AN ARMISTICE, OR TEMPORARY CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, BETWEEN THE ALLIED NATIONS AND GERMANY GOES INTO EFFECT ON THE ELEVENTH HOUR OF THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE ELEVENTH MONTH. IT IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE END OF THE "WAR TO END ALL WARS."

JUNE 28, 1919: THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES IS SIGNED, OFFICIALLY ENDING WORLD WAR I.

NOVEMBER 11, 1919: PRESIDENT WILSON PROCLAIMS THE FIRST ARMISTICE DAY WITH THE FOLLOWING WORDS: "TO US IN AMERICA, THE REFLECTIONS OF ARMISTICE DAY WILL BE FILLED WITH SOLEMN 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."

NOVEMBER 11, 1920: FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HOLD CEREMONIES HONORING THEIR UNKNOWN DEAD FROM THE WAR. PRESIDENT WILSON NAMES THE SUNDAY NEAREST ARMISTICE DAY SUNDAY, ON WHICH SHOULD BE HELD SERVICES IN THE INTEREST OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

MARCH 4, 1921: CONGRESS PASSES LEGISLATION APPROVING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY. NOVEMBER 11 IS CHOSEN FOR THE DATE OF THE CEREMONY.

OCTOBER 20, 1921: CONGRESS DECLARES NOVEMBER 11, 1921 A LEGAL FEDERAL HOLIDAY TO HONOR ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR.

JUNE 4, 1926: CONGRESS ADOPTS A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO ISSUE AN ANNUAL PROCLAMATION CALLING ON THE OBSERVANCE OF ARMISTICE DAY. THROUGHOUT THE 1920S AND 1930S, MOST STATES ESTABLISH NOVEMBER 11 AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY AND AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, AN ANNUAL PROCLAMATION IS ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT.

MAY 13, 1938: CONGRESS PASSES LEGISLATION MAKING NOVEMBER 11 A LEGAL FEDERAL HOLIDAY, "ARMISTICE DAY."

NOVEMBER 11, 1947: THE FIRST CELEBRATION USING THE TERM "VETERANS DAY" OCCURS IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, LED BY RAYMOND WEEKS, A WORLD WAR II VETERAN.

JUNE 1, 1954: PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SIGNS LEGISLATION CHANGING THE NAME OF THE LEGAL HOLIDAY FROM ARMISTICE DAY TO VETERANS DAY.

OCTOBER 8, 1954: PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER ISSUES THE FIRST "VETERANS DAY PROCLAMATION," WHICH STATED: "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..."

NOVEMBER 11, 1958: TWO MORE UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN WAR DEAD ARE 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.

JUNE 28, 1968: CONGRESS PASSES THE MONDAY HOLIDAY LAW WHICH ESTABLISHED THE FOURTH MONDAY IN OCTOBER AS THE NEW DATE FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1975: PRESIDENT FORD SIGNS AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFORM MONDAY HOLIDAY ACT TO RETURN THE FEDERAL OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY TO NOVEMBER 11, BASED ON POPULAR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

NOVEMBER 11, 1978: VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE OFFICIALLY REVERTS TO NOVEMBER 11.

NOVEMBER 11, 1982: RAYMOND WEEKS, CONSIDERED BY SOME THE "FATHER OF VETERANS DAY," RECEIVES THE PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN.

NOVEMBER 11, 1984: AN UNKNOWN SERVICEMAN FROM THE VIETNAM WAR IS PLACED ALONGSIDE THE OTHERS IN THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN. TO HONOR THESE MEN, SYMBOLIC OF ALL AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN ALL WARS, AN ARMY HONOR GUARD, THE 3RD U.S. INFANTRY, KEEPS DAY AND NIGHT VIGIL.

POPULATION

THERE ARE **21.8 MILLION** VETERANS IN THE UNITED STATES

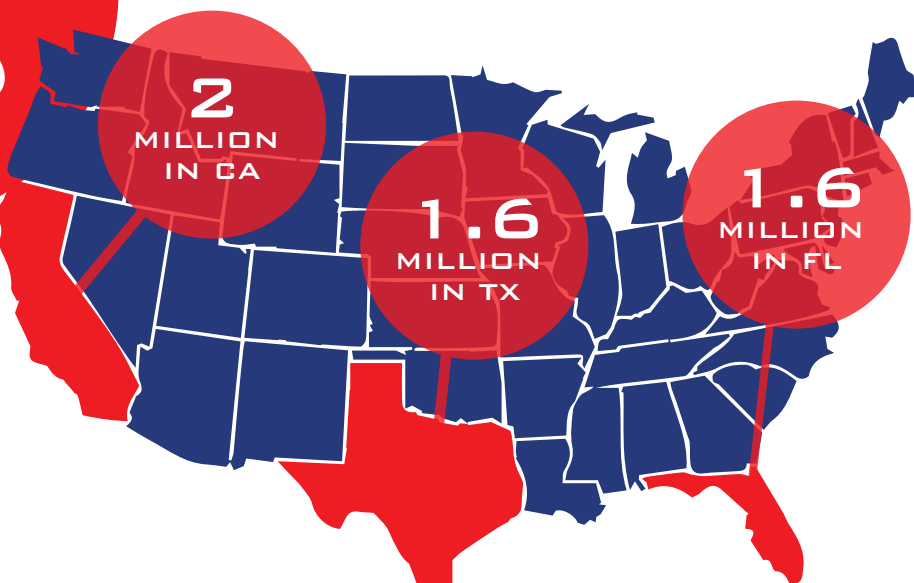


20.2
MILLION
MEN



1.6
MILLION
WOMEN

LOCATION



STATES WITH THE MOST VETERANS

EDUCATION



92%
OF VETERANS 25 AND OLDER HAVE AT LEAST A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA



26%
OF VETERANS 25 AND OLDER HAVE AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

POST 9/11 GI BILL

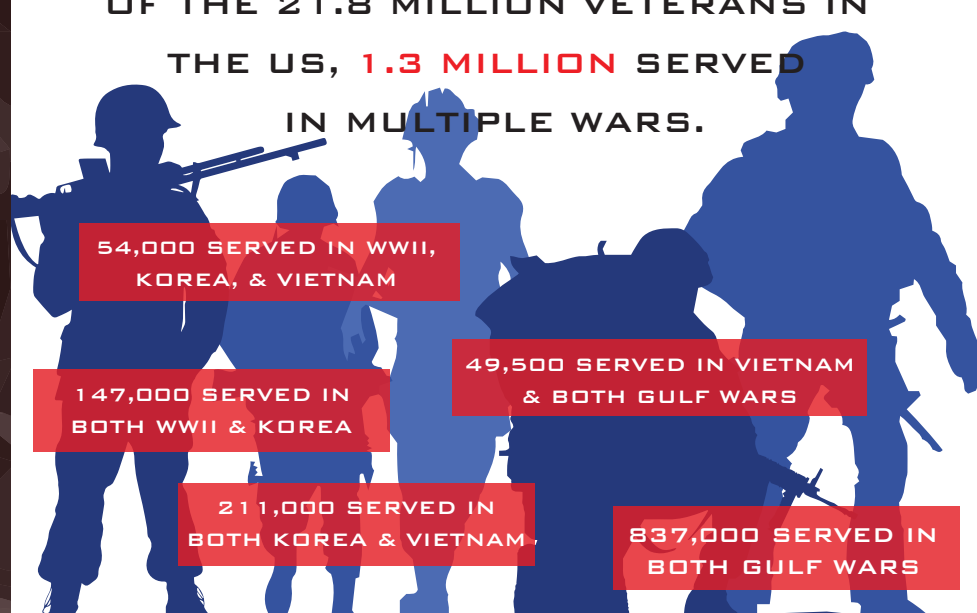


773,000

VETERANS ARE USING THE POST 9/11 GI BILL TO BETTER THEIR FUTURE, AND AMERICA'S BY ACHIEVING THEIR EDUCATIONAL GOALS.

SERVICE

OF THE 21.8 MILLION VETERANS IN THE US, **1.3 MILLION** SERVED IN MULTIPLE WARS.



WWII KOREA VIETNAM GULF I GULF II

WAYS TO THANK A VETERAN

- ★ FLY THE STARS AND STRIPES
- ★ LIVE YOUR LIFE TO ITS FULLEST
- ★ SERVE SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOURSELF

BUSINESS

VETERANS OWN 9% OF ALL U.S. BUSINESSES



\$1.2
TRILLION GENERATED BY VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES



5.8
MILLION PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYED BY VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES

GOD BLESS THE USA