

Veterans Day is a special time of year for many Americans who, in some way, have formed a connection with a veteran or who are veterans themselves. It is a day that brings about a great sense of pride in our country, a day when we are especially thankful for the service and sacrifice of those who chose, and those who continue to choose to wear the cloth of the nation. As we celebrate Veterans Day, it is important to remember how this holiday originated and why we continue to observe it today.

Why do we celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11? On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, an armistice went into effect and all fighting between the allied nations and Germany ceased. This moment is generally celebrated as the end of World War I. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first commemoration of Armistice Day on Nov. 11, a day on which the nation celebrated the end of "The Great War" with parades and public gatherings. As our nation became involved in World War II and the Korean War, millions more veterans were honored on Armistice Day in addition to veterans from World War I. So, on June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation changing the name of Armistice Day, a day whose origins were tied to World War I, to Veterans Day, in order to officially recognize veterans who served our country in all wars. If you know a veteran, please remember to thank them for their service.