

Their Service-Our Freedom
Veterans Day - The Lost Holiday

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Veterans Day has become a lost holiday to kids my age. I'm not really sure that kids understand why Veterans Day should be one of the most important holidays that we celebrate each year. Without the brave veterans that served our country in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Afghanistan we may not have the freedoms that we take for granted every day. Veterans Day was not always know as Veterans Day. In 1919, only one year after the end of World War I, President Wilson created Armistice Day to be celebrated on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month each year to remember the end of "The Great War." In 1954 Congress changed the name to Veterans Day to make sure that veterans from World War II and the Korean War were included in the celebration.

Veterans are anyone who served in any branch of the military at any time. They are true heroes because they are the ones who have protected our country's freedom and protected our borders. Without the brave men and women who have served in the military we may not have the freedoms we take for granted today. For instance, we may not have the right to vote, freedom of speech, or the right of freedom of religion. Veterans are hardly ever recognized for their courage, bravery and strength. Many veterans lost their lives, were away from their families for long periods of time, or were injured and wounded in the line of battle. Veterans always show great respect to the American flag and the Star Spangled Banner because they understand what those symbols mean to our freedom.

Veterans Day continues to be on November 11th, regardless of what day of the week falls on. President Eisenhower said that the observance of Veterans Day not only keeps the historical significance of the date, but helps us all focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day—to celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love for their country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for all of us. If you know or ever meet a veteran, make sure you thank them for their service and always honor and respect them. Let's not let Veterans Day become a lost holiday.