



THE STOUFFER REPORT

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Senate District 21

Capitol Building, Room 332
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Veterans Day Recognizes Commitment of American Heroes

Missourians' recent approval of property tax exemptions for nonprofit veterans' organizations was a timely tribute, with all Americans celebrating Veterans Day on Nov. 11. Veterans Day offers us the opportunity to honor the 25 million veterans who have served and who continue to serve the United States. By recognizing all those who serve to protect our freedoms, we can better understand what it truly means to be an American.

Every Veterans Day, consider sitting down with a young person and writing a "thank you" note to someone in your family or community that has served this nation. We owe them so much. Whether it's a new veterans' cemetery in Higginsville, a hometown monument to their sacrifices in Lexington, or a gathering at a local courthouse — we should and will continue to thank and honor area veterans for their sacrifice and courage.

Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day, in celebration and remembrance of the truce that ended World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. In the year following the armistice, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day proclamation, and Congress made it an official national holiday in 1938.

After World War II ended in 1945, several communities in the United States renamed the holiday Veterans Day to honor all veterans who had fought in American wars. On May 24, 1954, Congress and President Dwight Eisenhower followed suit and officially changed the name to Veterans Day. Although Congress attempted to change the date of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October, due to the historical significance of Nov. 11 and Americans' attachment to that day, Veterans Day was reverted to the original date in 1978.

Official national ceremonies for Veterans Day take place at Arlington National Cemetery, our country's most historic military cemetery. The cemetery is located in Arlington, Va., just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. Ceremonies take place at the Tomb of the Unknowns, which represents the brave missing and unknown service members of four different American wars — World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

On this Veterans Day, we tip our caps and bow our heads in appreciation of the sacrifices American veterans have made and continue to make. With American heroes currently overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, we should be especially grateful of our veterans' sacrifices. Without their efforts, we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have as citizens of this great nation.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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