



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Veterans Day

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JEFFERSON CITY – Throughout our nation’s history, America’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coastguardsmen have bravely answered the call to defend our freedom, to aid our friends and allies, and to turn back aggressors. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000 American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million who were wounded. We can, however, recognize and thank the 25 million veterans still living today.

World War I, known as “The Great War,” officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919, although fighting had ceased seven months earlier when an armistice between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November of 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. President Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day to recognize American veterans of all wars.

These words are inscribed on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.:

“Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.”

Those words apply equally to many of our World War I, World War II, Vietnam War and Gulf War veterans as well. They apply to today’s active duty service members – tomorrow’s veterans – who are helping to maintain peace throughout the world.

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On November 11, it is our privilege to say “thank you” to all of America’s veterans, to let them know that we appreciate them for their service and honor them for their sacrifices.

The price of freedom is high, and we cannot afford to forget those willing to pay it.

This Veterans Day we celebrate America’s veterans for keeping this nation “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.