



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

National Veterans Day Ceremony

The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. The ceremony commences precisely at 11:00 a.m. with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by Veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. The ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces.

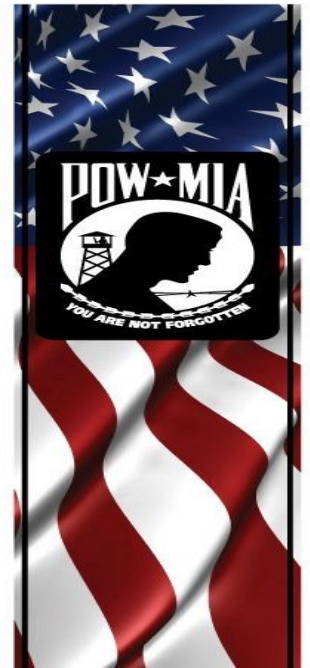
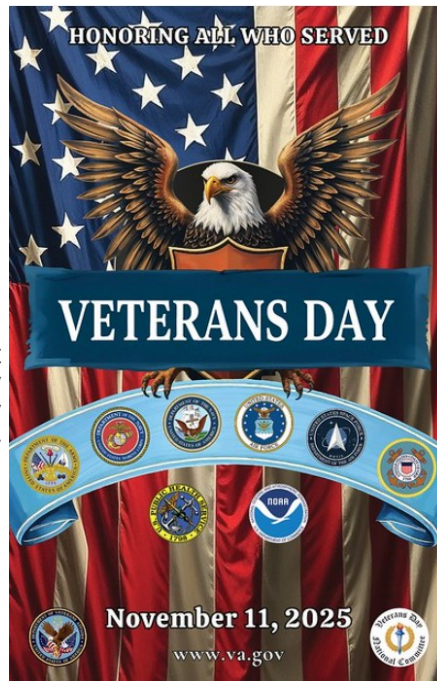
Wreath Layings

Offering flowers at a memorial site is a ritual that occurs around the world, symbolizing the beauty and brevity of life. Floral tributes are made each day at Arlington National Cemetery — at funeral services, public ceremonies and individual visits to a loved one's gravesite.

Formal ceremonies at Arlington often involve the laying of a wreath. These ceremonies typically take place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, attended by ceremonial units from the uniformed services. You may have the opportunity to observe such a ceremony during your visit. You might even be taking part in one.

The most solemn ceremonies occur when the president of the United States, or the president's designee, lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to mark the national observance of Memorial Day, Veterans Day or some other special occasion. Ceremonial wreath layings also occur during state visits of foreign dignitaries, who pay formal respects to the sacrifices of America's veterans by placing a wreath before the Tomb.

Wreath layings by other public figures and organizations take place at the Tomb or at the scores of other memorials throughout the cemetery, although most are not marked with the same ceremonial pomp of the state events. These include annual observances by veterans' groups and special events such as the dedication of a marker or the commemoration of an anniversary.



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Veterans Services Office



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*2 Library Ln., Ste 105
Floresville, TX 78114*



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<https://www.facebook.com/Veterans-of-Foreign-Wars-Post-8555-179838536027305/>

Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)

In response to the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President George W. Bush launched the Global War on Terror (GWOT). As it evolved, his objective was two-fold: to destroy al Qaeda, the Taliban, and other terrorist groups in Afghanistan and around the world, and to remove Saddam Hussein from power to forestall threats from his presumed possession of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Operation ENDURING FREEDOM began on October 7, 2001, when the United States launched military operations in Afghanistan, including airstrikes against Kabul and Kandahar. In sustaining military operations for over a decade, American troops continue to fight a widespread insurgency and establish a viable government. On May 1, 2011, US Navy SEALs killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan ended on December 31, 2014.



In honor of Women's History Month, here are some things you may not know about women in the U.S. military.

1. According to the U.S. Department of Defense's 2023 demographics report, the percentage of women serving in uniform increased slightly from 17.5 percent in 2022 to 17.7 percent in 2023.
2. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 2 million women veterans live in the U.S. today. In 2000, women veterans were just 4% of the veteran population. But by 2040, they are projected to make up 18% of all veterans, making them the fastest growing group of veterans.
3. TV star Bea Arthur was a truck driver in the Marine Corps during World War II. (via military.com)
4. Abolitionist Harriet Tubman led a Union spy ring during the Civil War. (via military.com)
5. A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership [is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary](#) regardless of whether or not she is a member of the Legion.
6. The only woman to be awarded a Medal of Honor is Mary Edwards Walker, a medical doctor during the Civil War who had to start as a nurse but ultimately became the Army's first female surgeon. She was also a spy, and a POW. But as a non-combatant, her medal was revoked between 1917 and 1977. (via history.com)
7. During the Civil War, nurse and founder of the Red Cross Clara Barton received a special "military pass" that permitted her to travel directly onto the battlefield, where she drove her medical wagons straight into the fray to tend to wounded soldiers. (via the USO)
8. The first known women to join each service branch were Genevieve and Lucille Baker, and Myrtle Hazard, Coast Guard; Deborah Sampson, Army; Opha May Johnson, Marine Corps; Esther McGowin Blake, Air Force; and Loretta Walsh, Navy. (via military.com)
9. Navy Capt. Rosemary Mariner was one of the first eight women selected to fly military aircraft in 1973, and a year later became the Navy's first female jet pilot. At her graveside service in February 2019, nine female pilots from Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia performed the "missing woman" formation for their predecessor – the first all-female crew to do so. (via [We Are The Mighty](https://WeAreTheMighty.com))
10. Dr. Kamin Samuel was the U.S. Navy's first Black female helicopter pilot.



America's Wars



WORLD WAR I

(1917 - 1918)

Total Forces.....	4,734,991
Battle Deaths.....	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	63,114
Wounded.....	204,002



KOREAN WAR

(1950 - 1953)

Total Forces.....	5,720,000
Battle Deaths.....	33,739
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	17,672
Wounded.....	103,284



GULF WAR

(1990 - 1991)

Total Forces.....	2,225,000
Battle Deaths.....	148
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	1,565
Wounded.....	467



WORLD WAR II

(1941 - 1945)

Total Forces.....	16,112,566
Battle Deaths.....	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	113,842
Wounded.....	670,846



VIETNAM WAR

(1964 - 1975)

Total Forces.....	8,744,000
Battle Deaths.....	47,434
Other Deaths (in Theater).....	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater).....	32,000
Wounded.....	153,303



Iraq War

(2003 - 2011)

Total Forces.....	192,000
Killed.....	4,507
Wounded.....	32,242

Afghanistan War

(2001 - 2021)

Total Forces.....	800,000 +
Killed.....	2,461
Wounded.....	20,698

October 2025

November 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Food Distribution	2	3	4
5 Fried Chicken Dinner Fundraiser	6	7 VPR Start of OEF	8	9	10	11
12	13 Columbus Day Navy Birthday VFW Meeting	14	15	16	17	18 VPR Women in Mil Svc
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	1 All Saints' Day

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November 2025

December 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 All Saints' Day
2 Daylight Saving Ends	3	4	5 Food Distribution	6	7	8
9	10 Marine Corps Birthday VFW Meeting	11 Veterans Day VPR Veterans Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day	28 Black Friday	29 Gun Raffle Drawing
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

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