

Communication

...from the President General

Compatriots,

What does Veteran's Day mean to you? Unfortunately, for some, it is only a day off from work, a paid holiday, a day when stores and business have a Veteran's Day sale. But thankfully, for most Americans, and the SAR, it is a day of honor, respect, and thanks to our Veterans and Military. Veteran's Day, November 11th was formerly known as Armistice Day to honor the end of World War I. Legislation honoring this day passed November 11, 1938. It was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'" Originally it only honored World War I veterans.

In 1954, the U.S. after experiencing both World War II and Korea amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." Thus on June 1, 1954, November 11th became "Veteran's Day," a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

What does Veteran's Day mean to me? As a member of the SAR, whose members trace their blood lineage to our Patriots many of whom were our country's first Veteran's; it is a day for me to honor our Patriot Ancestors. As the son of a Marine Corps and Army veteran of three wars, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam; it has always been a day for me to honor my father and the thousands of other veterans (men and women) who served or are still serving our country. Many in my family, including my brother, my uncle, and both my grandfathers were veterans. I am grateful and proud of all veterans.

What does Veteran's Day mean to you? For the many members and their spouses, sons, daughters and other family members who either are Veterans themselves, still active duty, or whose family members were veterans, it is a very special day. But you don't have to be a member of the SAR or a Veteran or have a veteran in your family to know we all owe our heartfelt thanks to all Veterans and service men and women still serving in our military. All these brave men and women, whether having served in times of peace or war, at home or abroad, were willing to offer the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and way of life. We owe them all a debt that can never be repaid but must never be forgotten. Each veteran or service member should be honored, remembered and thanked.

This Veteran's Day weekend will be a busy time for many of our chapters, societies, and districts. Many of our SAR members, DAR members, C.A.R. members, and our families will be honoring our Veterans by participating in parades and other Veteran's Day events. Many will be participating in formal Color Guard Events. However you or your chapters or states decide to honor our Veterans, don't ever forget that just as we remember them on November 11th, we should honor and respect and remember them year-round. When you see a veteran or member of our military at a restaurant, hotel, airport or on the street; thank him or her for their service. Give time and resources to organizations and groups that honor and support our veterans. It is easy to remember them on holidays such as Veteran's Day, but often difficult to remember to do so at other times of the year. Each of you must choose your way, how you honor and recognize our Veterans, but honoring them is the duty of every American.

For First Lady Nancy and I, we are fortunate enough to be home in Tucson, AZ this Veteran's Day. We will once again participate in the Tucson Veteran's Day Parade. But regardless of where you are, or what you are doing, take time to remember the sacrifice our veterans have made. Show them the respect they have earned and deserved by every citizen. Remember their families, whether it be yours or strangers throughout the year. Many of their families are left at home while their loved ones are gone serving and protecting our country.

As President General of the Sons of the American Revolution, I salute every man and woman whose sacrifices and service have kept us safe and made the United States the greatest country in the world. God Bless our Veterans (and future Veterans) and the United States.

Warren M. Alter, President General