

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918

Veterans Day was originally designated, in 1919, as **Armistice Day** by declaration of President Wilson with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

Congress later approved on May 13, 1938, to make the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "**Armistice Day**." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I.

In 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "**Armistice**" and inserting in its place the word "**Veterans**." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

