

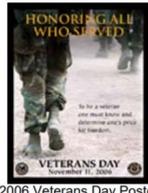




National Native American Heritage Month

America is a vast land of many cultures dating back thousands of years to the original inhabitants of the land. History, heritage, or culture of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are part of every community across the country today. Every November during Native American Heritage Month, the National Park Service share the history and continue culture of America's indigenous peoples. Join the conversation on social media or learn more about Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian history and heritage by using #IndigenousHeritageMonth, #NativeAmericanHeritageMonth, and #FindYourPark or #EncuentraTuParque.

Veterans Day



2006 Veterans Day Poster

The Origins of Veterans Day 2006 Veterans Day Poster

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans. Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousands of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle. Armistice Day Changed to Honor All Veterans The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on November 11, then designated Armistice Day.

Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in November 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide. On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed alongside the others.



The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil. A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans.

Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date. National Ceremonies Held at Arlington National Cemetery The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns.



At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes “Present Arms” at the tomb. The nation’s tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays “taps.” The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater. Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President’s Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans’ organizations. Governors of many states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.



Veterans Day-Remembering Colin Powell



Colin Powell (1937-2021) ascended from a humble upbringing in New York City to rise through military ranks and eventually become a four-star general, a national security adviser, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the first African American secretary of state. He became a national figure during the Persian Gulf War, developing the “Powell Doctrine,” as chief military strategist. As secretary of state under President George W. Bush, Powell pressed the case for a possible war with Iraq in a speech to the United Nations in 2003. He then resigned from the position in 2004 after acknowledging his defense of an Iraq invasion was based on faulty information. He died of complications from COVID-19 on October 18, 2021. He had been vaccinated but had a compromised immune system due to treatment for blood cancer. He was 84 years old.



Johns Hopkins University United Way Representative Brianna Moreland , SR. HR Coordinator wants you to get involved.

“Are you looking to make a difference in someone’s life this holiday season? Consider donating or volunteering for United Way of Central MD. Your help is always appreciated and needed for those in Maryland. By participating in Johns Hopkins United Way fundraiser, you can make a difference in the life of a child, a veteran, a struggling family, or even someone you may know. Your support will help people in our region recover and rebuild their lives.”

Get involved in United Way by visiting <https://www.uwcm.org/events>.

Celebrating Thanksgiving



The American Thanksgiving holiday began as a feast of thanks in the early days of the American colonies. It originated from a mix of European and Native American traditions that celebrated communal harmony and a bountiful harvest. Both the Separatists and the Puritans brought with them a tradition of providential holidays: days of fasting during difficult or pivotal moments and days of indulgence and celebration to thank God in times of plenty. Native Americans had a rich tradition of commemorating the fall harvest with feasting and games centuries before their arrival. George Washington formally recognized the holiday in 1789. At the height of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November. It was celebrated on that day every year until 1939, when Franklin Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Roosevelt's plan was unsuccessful. In 1941 he signed a bill declaring it the fourth Thursday in November.

Thanksgiving is a festival that spans cultures, continents and millennia. Its roots can be traced to the ancient Greek, Roman, and Egyptian civilizations. The Greeks honored Demeter, the goddess of grains during Thesmophoria. The Roman festival of Cerealia honored Ceres, the goddess of Corn. Egyptians honored the god of vegetation and fertility, Min. The ancient

Chinese celebrated “Chung Ch’ui”, a three-day harvest festival. Continuing today, cultures celebrate thanks for a plentiful harvest. Although these are observed with different names, customs, and traditions they all have the common theme of gratitude. India is a multi-lingual, multi-cultural country united in its diversity. Most Hindu festivals are directly or indirectly linked to agriculture and related activities. Pongal is an ancient festival celebrated in South India. It can be considered the Tamil equivalent of Thanksgiving. It is celebrated during the same time as other harvest festivals including ‘Bhogali Bihu’ in the North Eastern State of Assam, Lohri in Punjab, ‘Bhogi’ in Andhra Pradesh and ‘Makar Sankranti’ in the rest of the country. Thanksgiving is observed by Christians in the state of Goa.

In Vietnam, Tet Trung Thu is a combination of Halloween and Thanksgiving. In Vietnamese folklore, parents worked so hard during the harvest that they sometimes neglected their children. To remedy this, activities stressing family solidarity and unity were celebrated. This tradition continues today. **The Japanese celebrate Kinro Kansha No Hi**, a modern name for an ritual called Niinamesai (Harvest Festival). It is the National Labor and Thanksgiving Day. Many people visit their local shrine or temple to give thanks for production, harvests, and each other.

In German speaking countries, Thanksgiving is an autumn harvest festival called Erntedank. The typical German, Austrian or Swiss thanksgiving celebration is usually a rural harvest time observance with church services, a parade, music, and a country fair atmosphere. In larger cities, churches sponsor Erntedankfest.

Canadian Thanksgiving is celebrated in October to coincide with the end of the harvest season. The first Thanksgiving celebration in North America took place in Newfoundland 43 years before

the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth. Martin Frobrisher, an explorer from England held a feast in commemorating his safe arrival to the New World. **As we celebrate Thanksgiving,** we are reminded that we are part of a global tradition. The universal message of Thanksgiving may be summed up by this quote from John F Kennedy **“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”**



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SHOUT OUT TO OUR NEW Co-Chair of IT_DDI Marketing & Events Committee



Congratulations to new Co-Chair of Marketing & Events Committee , **Lisa Sparks** thank you for your continue commitment to the DDI Council.

If you have a story to share, please contact IT_DDI Marketing & Events Committee Co-Chairs @

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