



# Veterans Day



*Tribute*

**2024**





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**DID YOU KNOW?** Estimates from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicate that there were around 19 million veterans in the United States in 2021. Veterans Day, observed each year on November 11, honors all those who served honorably in the U.S. military during both wartime and peacetime. Data from the VA indicates that, as of 2016, Gulf War veterans account for the largest share of all U.S. veterans. Roughly 7.8 million veterans served during the Gulf War. Vietnam veterans also make up a sizable percentage of U.S. military veterans, as VA estimates indicate there were approximately 5.9 million veterans who fought in the Vietnam War in 2021. Though veterans need not have served in wartime in order to be recognized and honored on Veterans Day, the vast majority of U.S. veterans served during wartime. According to the VA, 78 percent of veterans in 2021 had served during wartime.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Post-traumatic stress disorder is more prevalent than people may realize. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, roughly 5 percent of adults in the United States experience PTSD in any given year. The VA reports that women are more likely to develop PTSD than men, with around eight in every 100 women experiencing the condition compared to four in every 100 men. That disparity is partly attributable to the types of traumatic events that women are more likely to experience than men, such as sexual assault. PTSD can develop after an individual goes through or witnesses a life-threatening event. Though the VA notes it's normal to experience stress reactions after such events, it's also typical for people to begin feeling better after a few weeks or months. When individuals experience stress reactions that last longer than a few months, they might have PTSD and should contact a physician immediately.



# Honoring our heroes - all veterans who have served their country with pride and sacrifice

**RACHEL AUBERGER**

Staff Writer

As autumn leaves fall and the crisp air settles over White County, a quiet reverence is felt throughout the community—a reminder that November is the month we honor those who have served our nation. With 1,938 veterans residing in White County, the impact of their service resonates deeply, reflected not only in their stories but also in the support systems established to assist them.

Veterans Day, observed on Nov. 11, was originally known as Armistice Day, marking the end of World War I. It was a day to honor the bravery of those who fought in that war. Over time, it evolved to recognize all American veterans who have served in both conflicts and in peacetime. Unlike Memorial Day, in May, which is dedicated to those who lost their lives in service, and Armed Forces Day which honors those currently serving in the military, Veterans Day celebrates those who have honorably left their military service, acknowledging their sacrifices and contributions to our country.

With this in mind, the White County Veterans Service Office stands as a pillar of support for local veterans. The office assists veterans in navigating the complexities of filing VA claims, securing burial benefits, and obtaining military records. This commitment to service serves as a bond between the community and its veterans, ensuring that they receive the benefits and recognition they have earned.

“Our mission is to serve veterans, eligible dependents, and surviving spouses of all eras through advocacy, service support, counseling, and informative outreach,” Matthew Elmore, the Veterans Service Officer, explained.

Financially, the impact of veterans in White County is significant. With VA compensation and pension benefits totaling \$18,930,640, these funds play a vital role in the local economy, supporting families and fostering stability. The numbers tell a story of sacrifice; each dollar represents not just financial support but a recognition of the hardships endured by those who wore the uniform.

American Legion Post #99 further amplifies support for White County veterans in need through its Veterans Outreach Program. This initiative provides critical services to homeless or at-risk veterans, including



**Veterans Day Ceremony 2023 at Metcalf Park in downtown Sparta**

a food pantry that operates 3-5 p.m., every Wednesday, clothing and household items, and emergency shelter when funds allow. Colleen Sandell, a dedicated volunteer, is the contact point for this program and can be reached at (931) 808-7210 or (931) 836-3595 whenever a need arises.

The community's dedication to preserving the stories and artifacts of its veterans is evident in the Veterans Museum of White County. Directed by Sandy Witt, the museum showcases a rich tapestry of history, featuring over 100 items donated or loaned by local veterans and their families. Artifacts range from uniforms to military documents, each piece representing a unique story of courage and sacrifice.

“Our main goal at the Veterans Museum of White County has always been to honor the Veterans who have served our country and provide a learning experience through uniforms, documents, photographs, and military items,” Witt explained. “It is important that these artifacts be preserved ensuring that the soldier's story is not forgotten.”

The museum is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m., on Friday, with special events and appointments available on Saturdays.

In downtown Sparta, the Veterans Park stands as a solemn tribute to those who

have served. Engraved on its walls are the names of 1,633 veterans, meticulously nominated by family members. The park is a place where history is etched in stone, where visitors can reflect on the sacrifices made by these brave individuals.

“Every name tells a story, and it's vital that we remember them,” Donna Fare, the park curator and a veteran herself, highlighted the significance of this memorial and said the names are categorized by wars and campaigns, illustrating the breadth of service across generations:

- World War I: 83
- World War II: 687
- Korea: 233
- Vietnam: 371
- Persian Gulf: 37
- Afghanistan: 39
- Iraq: 51

These numbers reflect not just statistics, but lives lived with honor, families impacted, and communities shaped by the trials of war.

As Veterans Day approaches, the residents of White County have the opportunity to reflect on the profound sacrifices made by their neighbors. From the quiet, everyday heroism of veterans who have returned to civilian life, to the enduring legacy of those who served in distant lands, each story contributes to the rich tapestry

of American history.

Community events, educational programs, and personal tributes are essential in ensuring that the sacrifices of veterans are not overlooked. White County stands united in its commitment to honor these individuals, not just on Veterans Day but throughout the year.

White County High School and White County Middle School will have Veterans Day programs and members of the military – past and present – are invited to attend and be honored. For more information on these programs, contact the schools directly.

There will be a Veterans Day Parade at 10 a.m., Nov. 9. The parade will carry veterans and those honoring them through town, ending at Metcalf Park, which is next to the American Legion Building. Immediately following the parade, there will be a program honoring all White County Veterans. The program, which will take place under the pavilion at Metcalf Park, will include guest speakers and musical performances by the White County High School Choir as well as Gene Hodge, a veteran himself.

In a world that often rushes past the sacrifices of those in uniform, White County will take time to pause, to reflect, and to honor the brave men and women who served this country.





# Honoring Our Heroes

## *Veterans Day facts and figures*

**V**eterans Day, once known as Armistice Day, was first celebrated on November 11, 1919, the anniversary of the end of World War I. In 1928, the United States Congress passed a resolution for Armistice Day to be an annual observation, and by 1938, the day became a national holiday.

Differing from Memorial Day in May, Armistice Day, which would be renamed Veterans Day in 1954 under President Dwight Eisenhower, pays tribute to veterans who survived various wars. Memorial Day commemorates those veterans who lost their lives.

Americans celebrate Veterans Day, while residents of Great Britain, Canada and Australia celebrate Remembrance Day. Those who want to learn more about Veteran's Day can consider the following facts.

- According to the American Community Survey, there were 19.3 million military veterans in the United States in 2014. Of those, 1.6 million were female.
- California, Texas and Florida comprise the states with the largest number of veterans, equalling one million or more.
- Veterans consist of people who served in the military. This includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Veterans serve in times of war and peace.
- The word "veteran" comes from the Old English language and means "old, experienced soldier." The first use of the word was documented in 1789.
- Although many veterans are working, and the average annual income of male veterans is \$37,000, some veterans continue to be unemployed. According to

data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the overall unemployment rate for veterans rose to 7.6 percent in January 2013. The unemployment rate of post-9/11 veterans or those who participated in the Gulf War reached 6.2 percent.

- Upon retiring or being discharged, veterans may need help acclimating to life outside the military. The Department of Veterans Affairs says about 30 percent of Vietnam War veterans have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

- Between 1971 and 1977, Veterans Day was celebrated on the fourth Monday in October. It was changed back to its original date, November 11, in 1975 when President Gerald Ford signed bill S.331 into law. The change went into effect beginning in 1978.

- An American soldier was buried at the national cemetery in Arlington on November 11, 1921. His identity was unknown, and the gravesite is known as the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." Each year on Veterans Day, the president or another high-ranking member of the government places a wreath on the grave. A guard from the Society of the Honor Guard stands watch over the grave.

Veterans Day occurs each year on November 11, marking the end of World War I. The day has evolved into a celebration and remembrance of the heroism of America's brave soldiers.



# The roles of the various branches of the U.S. military

Each November, people across the United States and its territories honor the brave men and women who serve and have served in the various branches of the country's military. Veterans Day is observed annually every November 11 and honors the service of all U.S. military veterans. The day should not be confused with Memorial Day, which is celebrated each year in May and honors all military personnel who have died in service.

Veterans Day is a great time for anyone to learn more about the various branches of the U.S. military.

## Army

The U.S. Department of Defense notes that the Army is the largest and oldest service in the country's military. The Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States. Members of the Army are trained to defeat enemy ground forces and to seize and control enemy lands and resources. Army also are trained to control and interact with the general population in countries where members are stationed.

## Marine Corps

It might surprise some to learn that the Marine Corps is a component of the Department of the Navy. That's one reason why



maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations. The Marine Corps is divided into four groups: the operating forces that fight; the headquarters for leadership; the supporting establishment that provides logistical support; and the Marine Corps Reserve.

## Navy

The Navy protects America at sea. Despite its massive land mass, the United States is a maritime nation, which underscores how important a strong Navy is to the safety of the country and its residents. The Navy works alongside American allies and partners to keep the seas open and

free.

## Air Force

The Air Force has five core missions: air superiority; global strike; rapid global mobility; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; and command and control. The Air Force defends the country and its residents in air, space and cyberspace and is capable of delivering forces anywhere in the world within hours.

## Space Force

The existence of the Space Force may come as a surprise to many Americans. Organized under the Department of the Air Force and established in 2019, this branch

of the military organizes, trains and equips space forces in order to protect the interest of America and its allies in space.

## Coast Guard

During peacetime, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security. In times of war, it operates under the Navy. The Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement as well as environmental protection. In addition to promoting national security, border security and economic prosperity in the maritime environment, the Coast Guard saves those in peril on the sea.

## National Guard

The National Guard is comprised of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. The National Guard has a diverse array of responsibilities that range from supporting combat missions to responding during domestic emergencies to assisting in humanitarian efforts and more.

The U.S. military is made up various branches, each with its own unique missions and responsibilities. Veterans Day marks the perfect occasion to celebrate the many individuals who have served and continue to serve in the U.S. military.



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## U.S VETERAN YOU ARE INVITED



### White County High School Veterans Day Ceremony

**Who:** All Honorably Discharged or Currently Serving Members of the U.S Armed Forces (Including National Guard / U.S. Army Reserve)

**What:** Veterans Day Ceremony

**When:** 1030 hours on 11 November 2024

**Where:** White County High School Gym

**Why:** To Honor Your Service in the U.S. Military

**How:** Please RSVP to the JROTC Instructor(s):

**1SG Douglas Romero:** [douglas.romero@whitecoschools.net](mailto:douglas.romero@whitecoschools.net)

**SFC Jason Moore:** [jason.moore@whitecoschools.net](mailto:jason.moore@whitecoschools.net)

- Please include your rank, name, branch, years of service, and participation in conflicts in your RSVP
- Meet JROTC Cadets under awning starting at 1000 to be marched into the gym at the start of the ceremony
- In your RSVP, or upon check in with the JROTC Cadets, please include if you require any special accommodations

We look forward to seeing you and Thank you for your Service!

# Land of the Free, THANKS to the BRAVE

To all of our nation's troops and veterans,  
Happy Veterans Day,  
and thank you for your service!

Your courage, commitment and sacrifice  
fill us with admiration and gratitude.

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# SALUTING ALL WHO SERVED

*With Respect & Deep Gratitude*

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men and women of our  
military for your service  
past and present!



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**A Salute & Thank You to all  
Veterans for your Service &  
Dedication to this Great Nation!**



# Veterans Museum of White County



Submitted by Sandy Witt  
Veterans Museum of White County  
Director

Veterans Museum of White County  
5 Liberty Square  
Sparta, Tennessee 38583  
(931) 836-3595

The Veterans Museum of White County,  
located in the historic American Legion

Building, opened in 2010 and has grown slowly, but steadily, over the years. Our main goal from the start has been to honor the veterans who have served our country and provide a learning experience through the uniforms, documents, photographs, and military items from the past to the present day.

The Veterans Museum not only provides a place of history but also has been fortunate to take part in many community events, was one of the stops for the former Fourth Grade History Tour, has been featured on Ben Lomand Channel 6 Table Talk, assist with our local Memorial Day and Veterans Day Programs, sponsors the annual Christmas Market Art & Vendor Fair, and provides flags for veterans gravesites through our Memorial Day Flag Program.

We provide an admission-free facility so that everyone may enjoy the museum, and all work is done by volunteers.

For more information or to donate items, call Sandy Witt, museum director, at (931) 836-3595.



## How to help aging veterans

According to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, surveys from the Pew Research Center and the U.S. Census Bureau, there were more than 18 million living military veterans in the United States by the end of 2023. Seventy-two percent of those veterans are age 50 and older, and many served during wartime.

Military personnel make significant sacrifices to protect the freedoms Americans enjoy each day, and it's vital that those efforts are never forgotten, even if it's been decades since service personnel have been on active duty.

Thirty-seven percent of living veterans are age 70 and older, and these brave individuals must face the challenges of aging as well as some, including chronic injuries, that might be traced to their time in the military. That makes helping aging veterans an especially worthy endeavor, and those interested in doing just that can consider the following ideas.

- Offer your expertise free of charge. Working professionals can help aging veterans by providing advice or services free of charge or at steep discounts. For example, accountants can offer to prepare and file aging veterans' tax returns free of charge or, if the returns are complicated, at steep discounts. Financial advisors can visit a local veterans hall or home and speak to members or residents about managing money after retirement.
- Invite veterans over for special events or gatherings. The Department of Vet-

erans Affairs reports that veterans who served in the last 30 years make up the largest number of living veterans. Though there are still plenty of veterans who served prior to 1994, they may no longer have extensive social networks as more and more aging veterans pass away. Social connections are vital to long-term health, and researchers at the Center for Healthy Aging at Penn State University found that adults between the ages of 70 and 90 who reported more frequent, pleasant social interactions exhibited improved cognitive performance in the ensuing days. Individuals who want to help aging veterans can invite them over for special events, such as game watches, holiday gatherings or even weekly family meals.

- Pitch in around the house. Whether they suffered injuries during their time in the service or not, many aging veterans face the same physical limitations as others approaching or past retirement age. Offer to help aging veterans around the house. Mobility issues can make it hard to mow a lawn, tend to a garden or clean the interior of a home. Such tasks are made much easier when others pitch in, and these gestures can be a great way for families to show their appreciation to the brave individuals who protected the freedoms Americans enjoy each day.

There's no shortage of ways to help aging veterans, many of whom could use a helping hand as they navigate their golden years.

# VETERANS DAY

November 11th

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE & PROTECTING OUR FREEDOM

305 E Bockman Way, Sparta, TN 38583 (931) 837-7653

## Happy Veterans Day

### Thank you for Your Service!

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# Rotary Club of Sparta Veterans Park





# 8 ways to honor veterans

Millions of people make considerable sacrifices to protect the freedoms of their fellow citizens. According to the Pew Research Center and data from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Census Bureau, there are currently more than 18 million living veterans in the United States. The 2021 Census counted 461,240 veterans in Canada, according to Veterans Affairs Canada.

The term "veteran" refers to a person who served in the active military, naval, air service, or space service and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. In the U.S., there are actually five types of protected veterans, according to the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974. Under VEVRAA, a veteran may be classified as a disabled veteran, recently separated veteran, active duty wartime or campaign badge veteran, or Armed Forces service medal veteran.

Veterans deserve respect and admiration all year long, but also get their own holiday each November. Veterans Day celebrates veterans' patriotism and willingness to sacrifice and serve. This Veterans Day, people can consider these eight unique ways to honor the veterans in their community.

1. Attend events. Organize or partici-

pate in local Veterans Day celebrations, such as parades and ceremonial events.

2. Get involved with veterans' affairs. Support veterans by volunteering with organizations that assist them, such as the VA, local veteran's groups, VA hospitals, or charities dedicated to veteran services.

3. Petition for veteran speakers. Reach out to schools, scout troops or other groups and arrange opportunities for veterans to share their stories and contributions. Learning about the sacrifices these men and women made can heighten individuals' appreciation for veterans.

4. Support the families of veterans. Reach out to veterans' families, who also must make sacrifices and concessions. Anything from shopping, babysitting, doing chores, or making a meal can help the families of veterans.

5. Make a donation. If finances allow, make contributions to reputable charities that provide services for veterans like those that offer mental health counseling or job placement services. If there isn't a charity that fits with your vision, begin one.

6. Hire veterans to work. If you are a business owner or hiring manager, consider hiring veterans for open positions at your company. It can be challenging to re-enter the workforce after service, so



make it known that your firm welcomes veterans.

7. Offer personal acknowledgements. Take the time to speak to veterans and thank them for their service. If possible, when dining out, ask the server if you can pay for the meal of a veteran who also is dining that day.

8. Don't forget the fallen veterans. Al-

though Memorial Day is designed to honor those who lost their lives through military service, people still can honor the fallen veterans on Veterans Day by sharing stories or placing flags at veteran cemeteries.

Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11, marking an opportunity to express one's gratitude and support for the scores of veterans who have served honorably.

## What is V-J Day?



The Second World War was a bloody conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The war was waged between the Axis powers, which included Germany, Italy and Japan, and the Allied powers of France, Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union, and, to a lesser extent, China, according to Britannica.

### The start of WWII

World War II began when Adolf Hitler ordered the invasion of Poland, despite an agreement with the Soviets about control and division of the nation. Poland had guarantees of British and French military support should it be attacked by Germany. Therefore, when Hitler's invasion began in late August 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on September 3, thus marking the onset of World War II. The war raged on for six years, only coming to an end with Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) on August 14, 1945.

### The end of WWII

Speaking to a pool of reporters gath-

ered at the White House, U.S. President Harry S. Truman announced the unconditional surrender of Japan at 7 p.m. on August 14, 1945. This occurred after Okinawa fell to U.S. forces on June 22, 1945, and after the United States dropped the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima on August 6. The Soviet Union then declared war on Japan. Subsequently, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb, this time over Nagasaki. According to the National World War II Museum, the two atomic bombs killed as many as 210,000 Japanese. Japan realized that victory was impossible and accepted terms of surrender.

### V-J Day varies?

Four different days may be thought of as V-J Day: August 14, August 15, September 2, or September 3. According to the USO, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea, Canada, the United Kingdom, and several other nations celebrate V-J day on August 15. That date also is when Australia commemorates what they



call Victory in the Pacific Day.

In the U.S., V-J Day officially is acknowledged on September 2, 1945, or when the formal signing of the Instrument of Surrender took place aboard the battleship USS Missouri. China and Taiwan also designate September 2 as V-J Day. The Philippines recognizes V-J Day as September 3, 1945, because that is

when General Tomoyuki Yamashita, military governor of Japan to the Philippines, surrendered.

Due to differences regarding time zones, some countries heard word of the Japanese surrender on August 14, 1945. That news sparked the famous Times Square kissing photo. Despite news reaching the United States and other areas on August 14, that day is not officially recognized as V-J Day even though some still mark this day as notable.

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, President Truman received the surrender document and a second imperial rescript at the White House on September 7, 1945, officially bringing the war to a close.

World War II was a devastating time in the history of the globe, resulting in enormous loss of life, lasting emotional scars and vast damage. The world could finally breathe a collective sigh of relief when the war ended on V-J Day.



# How to help deployed military troops

The nation's military is comprised of millions of brave men and women who stand for the country's freedoms by serving domestically and abroad. Whether during war or in peacetime, the military plays an important role in protecting the nation and its interests.

Deployed military personnel face numerous and notable challenges. Every deployment is different, but community support can make deployment easier on military personnel and their families. With that in mind, the following are some ways anyone can help deployed military personnel and their loved ones at home.

- Send care packages. Care packages provide some of the comforts of home to deployed troops. They also let troops know that they are being thought of even if they are thousands of miles away. To facilitate the process of sending care packages, work with an organization that routinely delivers items to troops. One option is to donate money to the USO, which can send care



packages on your behalf.

- Care for the families left at home. Deployed troops may be able to rest more easily if they know their loved ones are happy and safe. Individuals can offer to babysit, run chores, share meals, and engage in other supportive acts with parents or spouses

of the deployed.

- Check in when you can. Some deployed troops have the ability to check in through video chats. Set aside regular times to touch base even if it is inconvenient. Seeing a familiar face can be a huge pick-me-up.

- Offer a listening ear. Venting to a judg-

ment-free ear can help reduce the stress of deployment. It's not necessary to provide feedback. Sometimes getting thoughts out and just having a supportive shoulder to lean on can help mitigate stress and worry.

- Set up resources. Once deployed military return home they may need certain services, such as qualified counseling or assistance finding a home. Having a list of people and resources at the ready can make assimilation back into domestic life easier.

- Send cards and letters. Any correspondence can be a welcome change for deployed personnel. Whether you have a service member deployed or not, you can adopt one and provide assistance and support. Many troops miss huge life events with their families, or may have no family back home. So even one letter or card can make a world of difference.

Support can make deployment a little easier as soldiers cope with the challenges that life in the military can present.

# These states are home to the greatest percentage of U.S. veterans



By the end of 2023, the United States was home to more than 18 million individuals who had served in the country's military. That figure, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Department of Veterans Affairs and surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center, represents individuals from all walks of life.

Veterans come from diverse personal backgrounds, and they also call a wide range of states home. The USCB reports that some state populations feature a greater percentage of veterans than others. The share of the adult population that has served in the U.S. military is highest in these 10 states.

1. Alaska: More than 10 percent of Alaska's 533,000 adult residents have served in the military.

2. Wyoming: The 2020 U.S. Census indicated Wyoming is the least populated state in the country. Despite that, the Equality State is home to a veteran population of just over 42,000, which accounts for roughly 9.4 percent of the state's adult population.

3. Virginia: Perhaps not surprising given

its proximity to the nation's capital, Virginia is home to a sizable veteran population that accounts for 9.2 percent of its roughly 6.68 million adults.

4. Maine: Though it's another state like Wyoming that does not boast an especially large adult population (a little more than 1.1 million individuals), Maine is home to more than 101,000 veterans.

5. Montana: The Treasure State features an adult population of just under 884,000, and 8.9 percent of those individuals (roughly 79,000 people) served in the U.S. military.

6. South Carolina: The Palmetto State is home to more than 344,600 veterans, and those individuals make up just under 8.5 percent of the state's adult population.

7. Nevada: Among the roughly 2.5 million adults who call Nevada home, nearly 206,000 (roughly 8.3 percent) are veterans.

8. New Mexico: More than 136,000 veterans live in The Land of Enchantment, accounting for 8.3 percent of the state's adult population.

9. South Dakota: Like Alaska, Wyoming and Montana, South Dakota does not boast



a particularly large adult population (roughly 685,000). However, more than 8.2 percent of adults who live in The Mount Rushmore State are U.S. military veterans.

10. Hawaii: The Aloha State rounds out the top 10, as the island state in the Pacific

Ocean is home to nearly 90,000 U.S. military veterans, which accounts for 8.2 percent of its total adult population.

This Veterans Day, individuals in all 50 states are urged to thank local veterans for their sacrifices and service.



*American Legion Post #99 Presents*

# **VETERAN'S DAY**

## **Parade & Program**



**NOVEMBER 9th, 2024**

**Parade 10:00am/Program 11:00am**

*Line up for Parade will begin at 9 am at WCHS. Parade will begin at 10 am and proceed to Metcalf Park (next to American Legion Bldg.)*



*Program will begin at 11 am at Metcalf Park. Will include Guest Speakers & Special Music by Gene Hodge & WCHS Choir.*

*In case of inclement weather, program will be held in the American Legion Building*

**For more information, please call 931-836-3595**