

A SALUTE TO VETERANS

SPECIAL TO THE MCKENZIE BANNER Honoring the Service and Sacrifices Made by Military Men and Women TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Newspaper Staff Honors Veterans

Each year at this time, the staff of The McKenzie Banner is busy attending various Veterans Day events at schools and churches. This year is different. Most events were canceled due to the COVID-19 virus. The newspaper staff, instead, chose to offer this special section to honor veterans.

This newspaper is owned by the Washburn family. James Loyd Washburn served in the U.S. Army during World War II. James Loyd was the former publisher of the newspaper. He died in 1985. His grandson, James Russell Washburn served as a Marine in Afghanistan, where he was seriously wounded.

For this section, we feature active duty military personnel and Edgar Harrell, one of only five survivors of the infamous USS Indianapolis that was sunk by a Japanese submarine. I had the pleasure of having breakfast with Sergeant Harrell on Saturday before he participated in the Henry County Veterans Parade.

In 2011, my wife, Teresa, my daughter, Brittany, and I traveled to Pearl Harbor for the

70th anniversary of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. It was the final day of the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association. Naval Secretary Ray Mabus was in attendance. He and a representative from Japan participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the USS Arizona memorial. Brittany and I rode in a small boat over to the USS Arizona with Secretary Mabus.

The Japanese initially thought they had dealt a death blow to the United States. They later learned they awakened a sleeping giant, who immediately declared war. McKenzie's Chandler King and wife, Sybil were at Pearl Harbor on that fateful day. Fortunately, he was not on the base at the time.

While at Pearl, Brittany and I listened to the salty old sailors recount their stories of despair and their desire to settle the score. They told of having few supplies, coal-fired steam ships that left a plume of smoke that enemies could see for miles.

In circa 2000, Bobby McDonald and I traveled to Mobile Bay to watch as the only landing ship tank in the U.S. limped into the bay after months of repair in Crete — when two LSTs were made into one. A donated load of fuel from BP

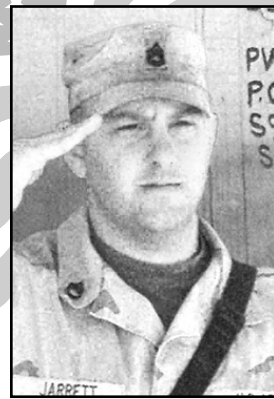
Oil, and a few stops at ports for repairs, the LST-325 made it home. It developed a hole in the hull, a downed gyroscope, and part of the propulsion system failed. The U.S. Government warned the crew not to attempt to bring the ship home. The journey is too dangerous, the crew was warned. The warning was noted, just not observed.

It is now a floating museum piece. Bailey Moore Wrinkle of McKenzie was on that ship. He was the electrician. It was manned by volunteer sailors who served in WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam. The average age was approximately 71 years old. Mr. Wrinkle toured Bobby McDonald and myself through the ship once it docked. Thousands of people welcomed the crew to the United States. Television cameras and media from throughout the world were there. "Tennessee," as the crew called Bailey, was very surprised.

Our veterans could fill books with their incredible stories of heroism and sacrifice.

Please join The McKenzie Banner as we proudly salute these brave men and women.

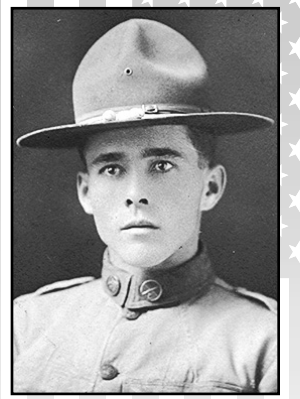
Joel Washburn, publisher



David L. Jarrett
TN Army National Guard
Master Sergeant
1/14/88-7/31/18
Tours of Duty:
Iraq 2004-2005 & Kuwait 2011-2012
Awards:
Bronze Star-Meritorious & Combat Action Badge



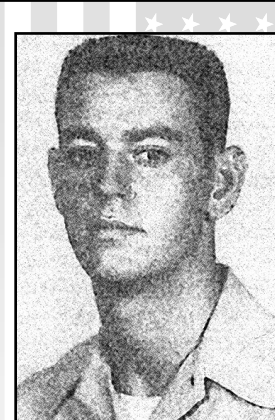
Susan Summers-Muzzall
Army
2003-2006
Tours of Duty/Locations:
Fort Irvin, California



Sam C. McGregor
Army
Corporal
1917-1919
Operation:
WWI



Spiridon L. Roditis
U.S. Army
Nov. 1989-Feb. 1992 & Aug. 1997-Aug. 2020
Tours of Duty/Locations:
1990-1991 — Desert Storm/Shield - Saudi Arabia and Iraq
2004-2005 — OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) - Iraq
2011-2012 — OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) & OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) Kuwait and Afghanistan



Dale R. Kelley
Air Force
1958-1963
Tours of Duty:
Lackland AFB-San Antonio, TX
Sheppard AFB-Wichita Falls, TX
Tyndall AFB-Panama City, FL
Sioux Lookout Base-Ontario, Canada
MacDill AFB-Tampa, FL



Andy Weaver
Sergeant/E5
11 years of service
Member of 1/278th ACR A Troop in Milan, TN; MIA1 Abram Main Battle; Tank Gunner; Unit Armorer; Vehicle Crew Evaluator; Platoon Sergeant of Head Quarters Platoon Tankers
Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom 2009-10 — Duties: Forward Operating Base (FOB) Security, Quick Reactionary Force (QRF), Convoy Escort, Route Clearance, and Routine and Maintenance Patrols.
N.A.T.O. Operation Atlantic Resolve — Duties: Provide Military Force Presents in Eastern Europe to detour Russian aggression against the country of Poland. Provide support, Assistance, and Training to the Polish Military.

How Memorial Day, Veterans Day Differ from Each Other

Memorial Day and Veterans Day each honor the military, though the two holidays are not the same. Memorial Day, which is celebrated annually on the last Monday in May, honors the brave men and women who lost their lives while serving in the American military. Many communities host memorial ceremonies honoring their fallen soldiers on Memorial Day, ensuring such soldiers' bravery and sacrifices are never forgotten. While many people now

view Memorial Day weekend as the unofficial start of summer, the weekend should not be celebrated without also pausing to reflect on and recognize the military personnel who lost their lives in defense of freedom and the American way of life.

Veterans Day is celebrated annually on November 11 and recognizes all men and women who have served in the military. Veterans Day coincides with Remembrance Day, which is a celebrated by the Com-

monwealth of Nations, an association of 53 member states with connections to the British Empire. Though Veterans Day and Remembrance Day are each celebrated on November 11, the latter recognizes armed forces members who died in the line of duty, making it more similar to Memorial Day than Veterans Day. It's not uncommon for people to recognize fallen soldiers on Veterans Day, but many use the holiday to express their appreciation to existing veterans.

We proudly salute all veterans!

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Master Sergeant

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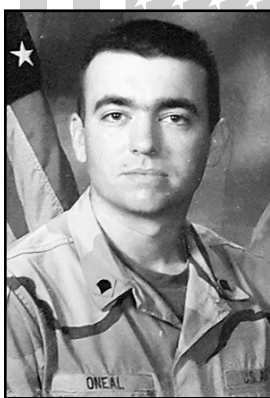
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Army
2001-2008
 Son of
 Donna Ramey Baskin
Operation:
 Iraq



Michael Shannon Biggs
United States Navy
1994-1998
Tennessee Army National Guard 1999-present
Staff Sergeant
Tours of Duty/Locations:
 2003-2004 Operation Iraqi Freedom
 2011 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn
 Currently assigned as the National Guard recruiter for Carroll County

Walker Family has a Tradition of Service

Husband and wife Todd and Melissa Walker of McKenzie both serve with the Tennessee National Guard. The Walkers join a family tradition of family members in the military.

Johnny Walker, Todd's dad, was First Sergeant E8, retired. Stephanie Walker, Todd's stepmom was a sergeant and deployed to Kuwait. Ralph Walker, Todd's grandfather, joined the Navy during WWII at the age of 17. He earned a GED, attended Bethel and served as full-time guard and retired as a facility manager. Ralph's brothers, Jack and Johnny both served in WWII. Ralph, Jack, and Johnny served concurrently in WWII. Their mom placed three blue stars in the window of their home to symbolize three of the family were in service.

Melissa is a Staff Sergeant E6. She served four years in active

duty U.S. Army and 17 years full-time active guard reserve. She started her military career as a healthcare specialist. She was deployed to Iraq in 2009 as a healthcare specialist. She worked seven years as a recruiting and retention NCO and now serves as a unit supply sergeant.

Master Sergeant Todd Walker joined the National Guard in December 1991 as a high school senior. He served eight years and exited the military because of his regular job requirements. He rejoined September 8, 2001 just three days before the terrorist attack on New York and Washington.

He deployed twice to Iraq and twice to Kuwait. He last deployed to Kuwait on October 24, 2019 and returned September 12, 2020 and was subject to a two-week quarantine before he could return to his family. Todd works with AT&T.

Todd and Melissa have two daughters, Mia, 6, and Lydia, 4.



Sergeants Todd and Melissa Walker

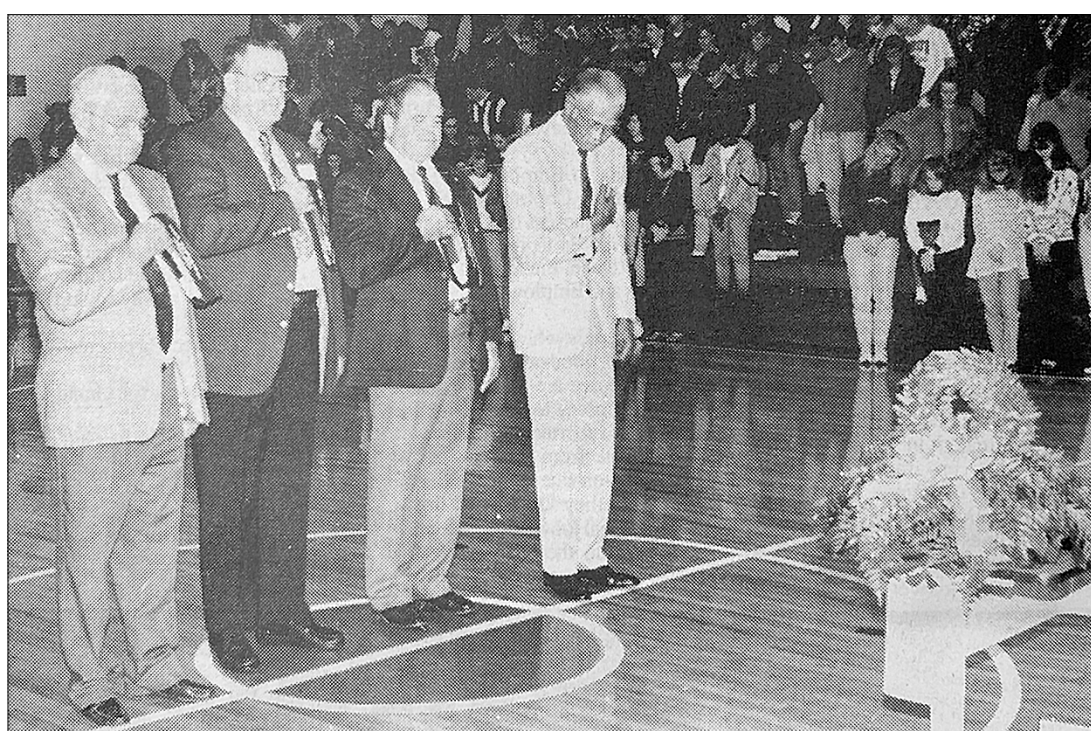


Donna Ramey Baskin
Air Force
1975-1998
 Daughter of
 Charles Ramey



Robert Kieth Dublin
US Army
1st Air Cavalry Div.
Jan. 13, 1964-Nov. 3, 1966
Tours of Duty/Locations:
 Ankhé & Qui Nhon, Vietnam

1994 Veterans Day at McKenzie High School



MCKENZIE — A flashback look at the 1994 Veterans Day event at McKenzie High School. Pictured are Franklin Howell, Raymond McDade, William Robertson and Odell Pate, who placed a wreath to memorialize the veterans who had departed. The ceremony was held in what is now the Middle School Gymnasium, which served as the gymnasium for both MHS and MMS prior to McKenzie High School's construction on State Route 22. The program was sponsored by the Student Council at McKenzie High School. File photo, Published Wednesday, November 16, 1994.



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William Stoner
USMC
1961-1964
Tours of Duty:
 USS Wasp CV-18
 Camp Lejeune, NC

George W. Emerson
Navy
1944-1945
Granddaughter:
 Donna Ramey Baskin
Operation:
 WWII

Reuben McNatt
Army Major
Operation:
 WWII

Paul Marvin Bumpus
Army Corporal
1942-1945

Michael E. Pope
Army Staff Sergeant E-6
Operation:
 Vietnam & Desert Storm

Paul Stoner
USMC
1969-1970
Tours of Duty:
 Da Nang, South Vietnam
 Chu Lai, South Vietnam

Charles R. Ramey, Sr.
Army
1952-1955
Operation:
 Korean War

Larry G. Fowler
Marine Lance Corporal
Jan. 1, 1969-Aug. 15, 1972
Tours of Duty/Locations:
 Vietnam

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Firing the Cannon

Color A Masterpiece



Gathering to fire the miniature cannon in honor of VETERAN'S DAY, early 1980s, were: Vester Washburn, Chief Raymond McDade, Bailey M. Wrinkle, Wilburn Headden, Cecil Purvis, Dale King, Franklin Howell, Gaylon Hickman, David Hickman, Barney Forbes.



Above, Private James Washburn in Japan following the conclusion of World War II. Below, James Washburn on base in Japan leaning against a vehicle from the motorcade.



James Loyd Washburn (left) and Wayford Otis Washburn (right) are shown in their United States Army uniforms in a picture taken about 1946 while stationed in Japan.

James Loyd Washburn

UNITED STATES ARMY
1945 — 1951

On November 29, 1945, James Loyd Washburn was inducted into military service at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Following basic training, he served with the 40th TC Squadron, 317th Transportation Corp. Group. After being stationed in Yamato, Japan with the American Occupational Forces after the end of World War II, he was transferred to E Squadron of the 1377th Army Air Force Base Unit and was stationed at Westover Field in Massachusetts. He was honorably discharged from the Army at Camp Stoneman, California, on June 29, 1947.

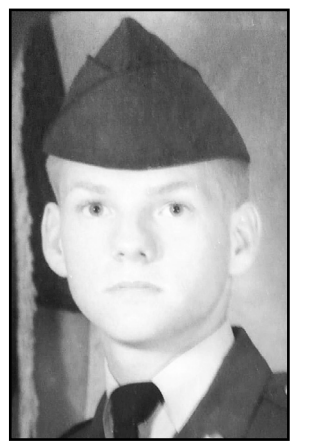
During his enlistment in the U.S. Army, he was awarded the World War II Victory Metal, Army of Occupation, Japan. After being discharged from the Army, he returned to McKenzie, where he joined Company G, 117th Infantry Regiment of the Tennessee National Guard. James was discharged from the National Guard on January 19, 1951.



Wayford Otis Washburn

United States Army
WWII

He joined the Army near the end of World War II and was stationed in Yokahoma, Japan, at the end of the war as part of the American Occupational Forces.



Stephen D. Price

Tennessee Army National Guard

Jan. 1980-Jan. 2007

27 years of service

Tour of Duty:

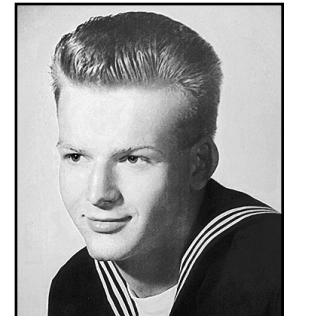
Nobel Eagle 2002 to 2004



Lonnie J. Stoner, Sr.

United States Army Corp.
1942-1944

Tours of Duty/Locations:
Barry Field, Nashville, TN



Lonnie J. Stoner, Jr.

U.S Navy
AMH2 E5

06/09/58-08/10/67

Tours of Duty/Locations:
NAS Cecil Field, Florida,
NAS Norman, Oklahoma,
NAS Great Lakes, Illinois,
NAS Glyneo, Georgia
& The Mediterranean

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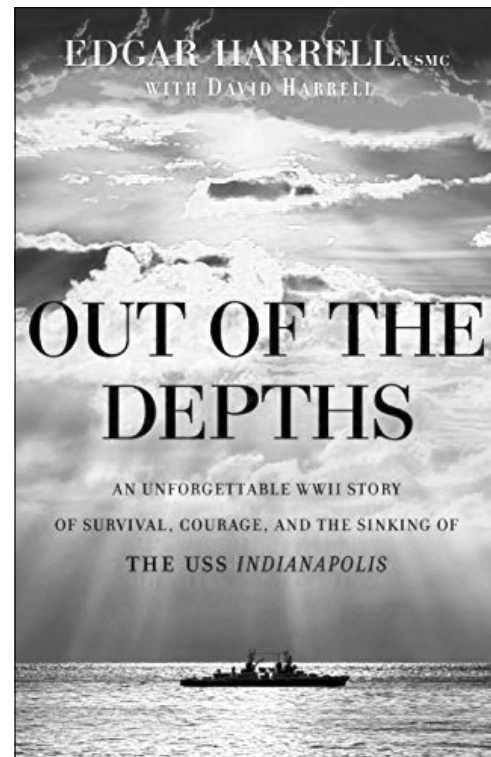
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From The McKenzie Banner



Left, Robert "Scooter" Miller with Edgar Harrell, one of five remaining survivors of the U.S.S. Indianapolis that was sunk by a Japanese submarine. Harrell, a Marine, and Navy sailors were adrift for days in shark-infested waters. Books and movies document the event. Harrell was in Paris on Saturday for the annual Veterans Day Parade. Center, Mr. Charles Wilson, principal owner of McKenzie Banking Company, is a long-time friend of Edgar Harrell. Right, The book "Out of the Depths" is a story of the U.S.S. Indianapolis written by Edgar Harrell.

WWII Marine Tells of Surviving Sharks, Enemy Torpedo

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

PARIS — Edgar Harrell, 96, of Clarksville told of his horrors as a Marine aboard the U.S. Indianapolis after it was hit by Japanese torpedoes from a submarine in the summer of 1945. Harrell, a former resident of Paris, Tennessee participated in the Veterans Day parade in Paris on Saturday, November 7.

He was the guest of Robert "Scooter" Miller and the veterans from Cottage Grove. Miller, the former McKenzie hospital administrator and a Vietnam-era Marine, accomplishes Harrell on many of his speaking engagements throughout the

United States.

Harrell told the same story he has told many years, still with the same passion. As he stood on the lawn of the Henry County Fairgrounds, awaiting the start of the annual Veterans Day Parade, would look wayward as if he was looking to the crow's nest to receive a signal from the captain or officer to abandon ship. He was on the ship to guard a secret cargo, which he later learned contained components of the first-ever atomic bomb used in war.

Harrell praises the Lord for his survivor and has spent many years telling how he prayed to Jesus as he floated for nearly five days. His book, "Out of the Depths" tells the story of he and

his shipmates, many of whom went down with the ship, others were eaten by sharks, and still others gave up in their fight to stay aloft of the water, while hungry, thirsty, exhausted, sunburned, and disoriented.

According to the description on Amazon.com of his book, Out of the Depths is a terrifying firsthand account of the sinking of the USS Indianapolis and the Navy cover-up that led to the bizarre court-martial and eventual exoneration of its captain. Marine survivor Edgar Harrell vividly describes the horrors of being plagued by sharks, hypothermia, severe dehydration

and salt-water hallucinations, and the crew's heart wrenching struggle to survive the greatest catastrophe at sea in the history of the U.S. Navy—a truly riveting story of survival, political intrigue and faith in the providence of God. On July 16, 1945, the USS Indianapolis departed from San Francisco for the American B-29 base on Tinian island with a top-secret cargo that would ultimately put an end to World War II—components for the first operational atomic bombs. After a record run, covering 5,300 miles in only ten days, the Indianapolis successfully delivered her cargo on July 26, 1945, and was ordered to set a course from Guam to the Leyte Gulf in the

Philippines to prepare for the invasion of Japan. Traveling unescorted, at fourteen minutes past midnight on July 30, 1945, she was hit by two Japanese torpedoes midway between Guam and Leyte, sending her to a watery grave in twelve minutes. Of the 1,196 men aboard, about 900 sailors and Marines entered the water. Due to a series of Navy debacles, no one knew of their plight. Five horrifying days later, 317 men who had survived the terror of shark attacks, hypothermia, severe dehydration and salt-water hallucinations, were accidentally spotted and rescued. It was aircraft flying overhead that, against all odds, spotted the sailors and Marines as

they floated in the debris-filled waters. Edgar Harrell owned and operated the Pella Window Company, Inc., Rock Island, Illinois for thirty-five years until his retirement in 1985. During the years 1970 to 1985, he served on the board of trustees of the Moody Bible Institute, in Chicago, Illinois, and has been a popular Bible teacher and lay minister throughout his adult life. He has enjoyed many years of fishing and big game hunting in the Rocky Mountains from Alaska to New Mexico, and currently resides in Clarksville Tennessee with his wife Ola. He was reared in Murray, Kentucky and lived, for a while, in Paris, Tenn.

History of Armistice Day, Veterans Day

World War I — known at the time as "The Great War" — officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France.

However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day 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..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday; Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a



Left, President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts. Photo credit: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Right, Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect. Photo credit: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made 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, but 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.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation"

which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250))

was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only pre-

285 Letter to Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Designating Him Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee. October 8, 1954

Dear Mr. Higley:

I have today signed a proclamation calling upon all of our citizens to observe Thursday, November 11, 1954 as Veterans Day. It is my earnest hope that all veterans, their organizations, and the entire citizenry will join hands to insure proper and widespread observance of this day. With the thought that it will be most helpful to coordinate the planning, I am suggesting the formation of a Veterans Day National Committee. In view of your great personal interest as well as your official responsibilities, I have designated you to serve as Chairman. You may include in the Committee membership such other persons as you desire to select and I am requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch to assist the Committee in its work in every way possible.

I have every confidence that our Nation will respond wholeheartedly in the appropriate observance of Veterans Day, 1954.

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

NOTE: This letter was released at Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, Colo.

President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee. Photo credit: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

serves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for

their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veteran's Day is a time to honor all those who sacrificed for something bigger than themselves: the safety and freedom of America. THANK YOU.

SALUTING OUR SOLDIERS ON VETERANS DAY