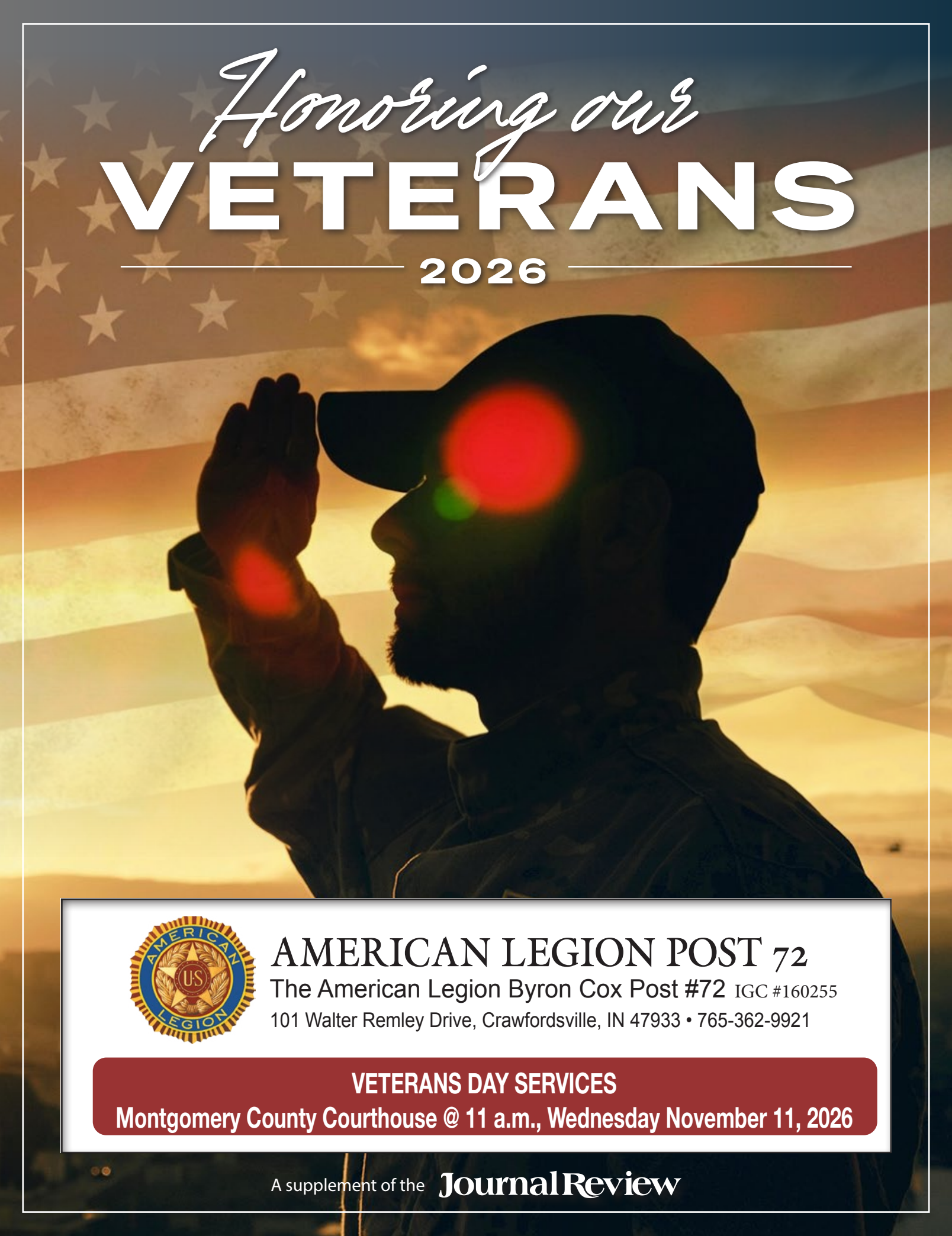
Honoring our VETERANS

2026



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VETERANS DAY SERVICES

Montgomery County Courthouse @ 11 a.m., Wednesday November 11, 2026

A supplement of the Journal Review



Thank you all veterans for your service.

Brian Bowman

VFW Post 1431

117 N. Water Street, Crawfordsville

765.364.0937

The Story of Veterans Day

Veterans Day honors and thanks all those who served honorably in the military – living and dead – whether in wartime or peace. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who serve have sacrificed and done their duty.

While Veterans Day is often confused with Memorial Day, the two observances serve different purposes and have different histories. Memorial Day, which has its roots in the post-Civil War effort to "memorialize" all those who died in that war, has become a modern holiday to remember those from all wars and conflicts who gave their lives in service to the country. To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000 the U.S. Congress passed and the President signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act" to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance. The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a moment of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Veterans Day, however, was first known as Armistice Day as a celebration of the resolution of World War I, a peace recognized historically on the date and time of that event, November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m., and salutes surviving service members as well as those who have passed away since their service.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans Day and called upon Americans everywhere to re-dedicate themselves to the cause of peace. He issued a presidential order directing the head of the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) to form a Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC) to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day. In addition to fulfilling that mission, the committee oversees the annual production and distribution of a Veterans Day poster and Teachers Resource Guide.

In 1968 in keeping with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Congress briefly moved Veterans Day to the 4th Monday in October, but it became quickly apparent that the American public held fast to the historical significance of the First World War armistice on November 11, and in 1978 Veterans Day was returned permanently to its traditional date.

Hence, the Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11:00 a.m. ET, a color guard made up of members from each branch of the military renders honors to America's deceased Veterans during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds "Taps." The balance of the ceremony, including a "Parade of Flags" by Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

On October 7, 2016, President Obama signed the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act. The law requires that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe a two-minute national moment of silence on Veterans Day at 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time, 2:11 p.m. Eastern standard time, 1:11 p.m. Central standard time, 12:11 p.m. Mountain standard time, 11:11 a.m. Pacific standard time, 10:11 a.m. Alaska standard time, and 9:11 a.m. Hawaii-Aleutian standard time.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the VDNC supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow. To learn more about the Veterans Day National Committee and the Veterans Day Regional Sites at department.va.gov/veterans-day.

Source: department.va.gov

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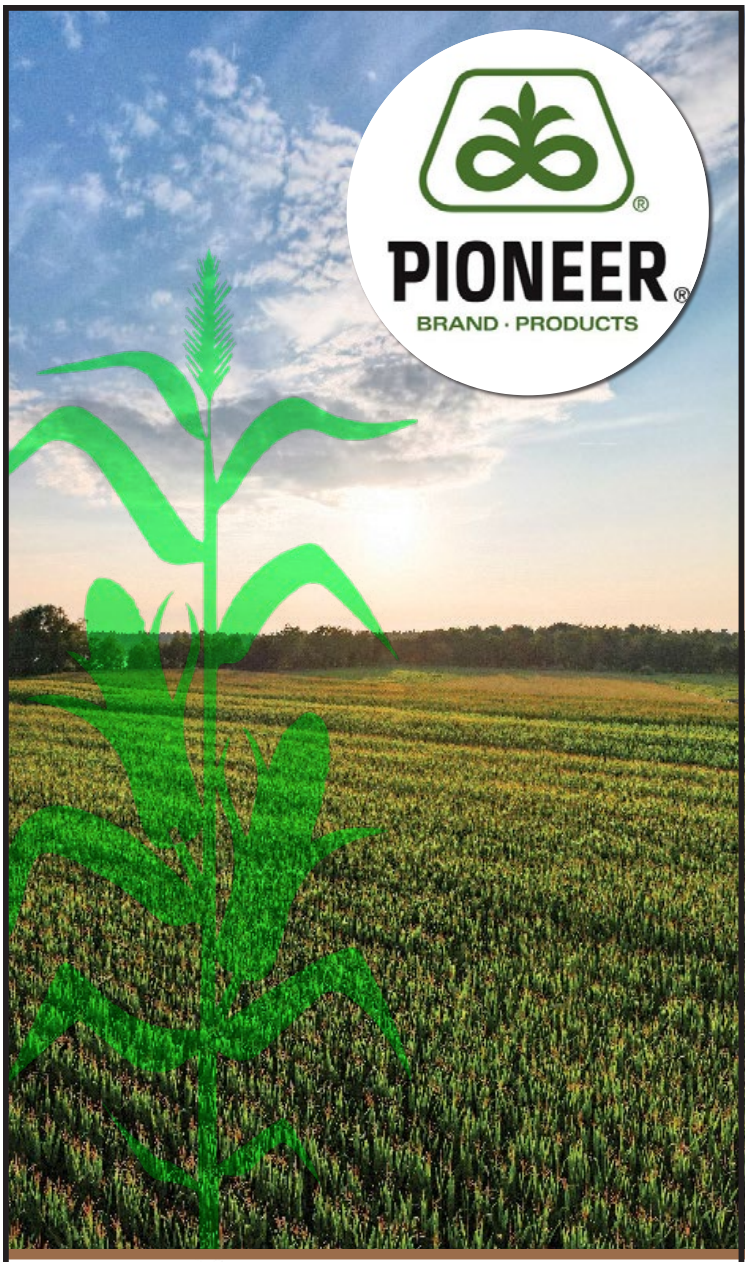
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The Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor is the United States' highest award for military valor in action. Signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War, The Medal of Honor was the nation's first valor Medal and remains at the top of the military's "pyramid of honor." The Medal represents the courage, integrity, sacrifice, commitment, citizenship, and patriotism displayed by those awarded it. Since its first presentation in 1863, just over 3500 Medals have been awarded, a very small percentage of the over 40 million individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces. As of June 2026, there were only 65 living Medal of Honor Recipients from all conflicts.

While the Medal of Honor is an individual, not a unit award, as a group, the Recipients will tell you that they wear the Medal for those who didn't come home and in honor of all those with whom they served.

Awarding the Medal

The standards to award the Medal of Honor have evolved over time, but the Medal has always stood for actions "above and beyond the call of duty." The current criteria were established in 1963 during the Vietnam War.

The Medal is authorized for any military service member who "distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty

- While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party."

All recommendations require thorough reports on the act itself, the battlefield and its setting; at least two sworn eyewitness statements; and any other compelling evidence that can be gathered. Recommendation packets must be approved all the way up the military command structure, ending with the United States President as the Commander-in-Chief.

By Federal Statute, recommendations for the Medal must be submitted within 3 years of the valorous act and the Medal must be presented within 5 years. Any submissions outside of this timeline require an Act of Congress to waive the time limits.

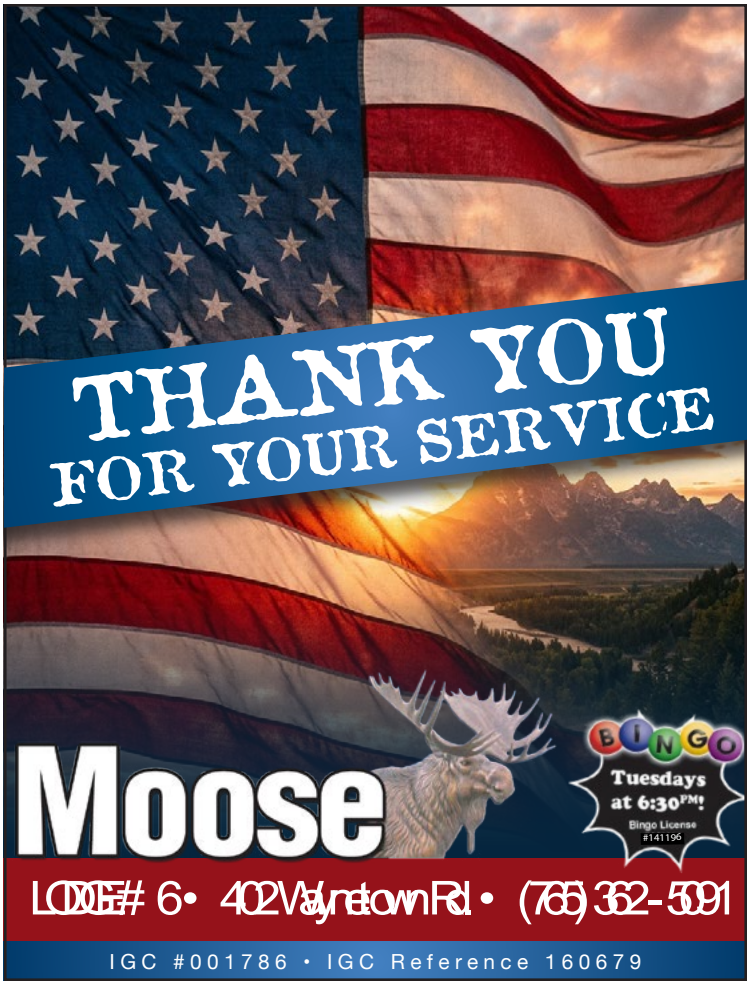
Source: department.va.gov

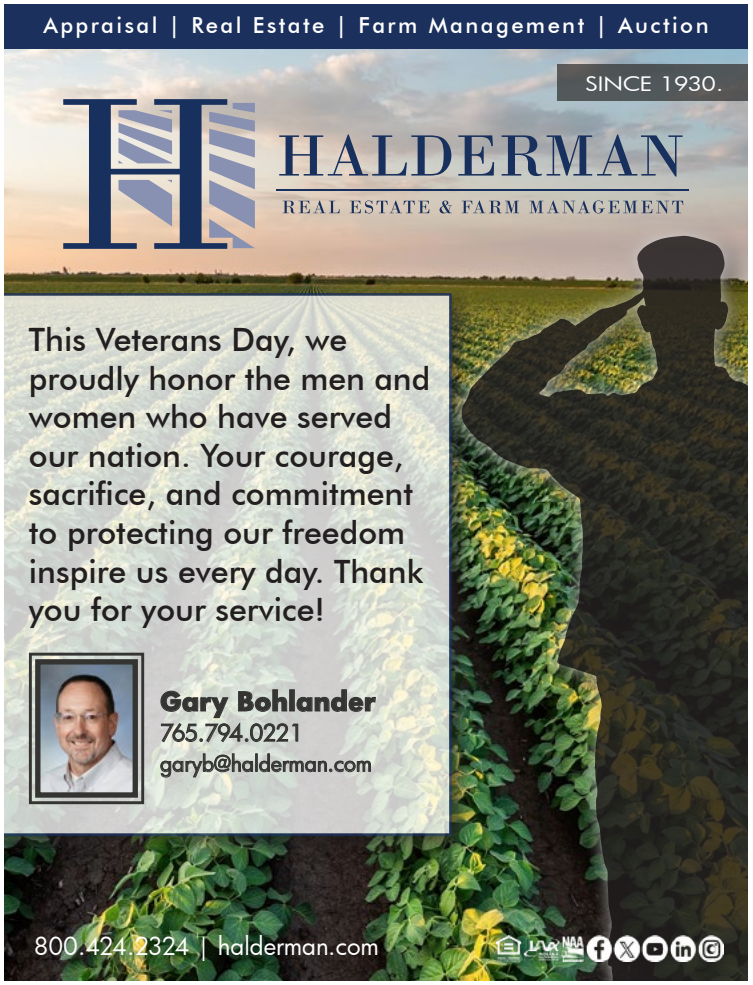



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Respecting the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag should be rendered by standing at attention and facing the flag, with the right hand over the heart. If not in uniform, a person should remove his or her hat with the right hand and hold it near the left shoulder, with the hand over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

During rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, all present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. People in uniform should render the military salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note. When the flag is not displayed, those present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed there.

Display the U.S. Flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays. On Memorial Day, the flag is flown at half-staff in the forenoon (sunrise until noon), then raised to its normal position at the top of the staff. When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way. The U.S. Flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days. Always hoist the U.S. Flag in a brisk manner; lower it slowly

Things to Avoid

Never show disrespect to the U.S. Flag. — Never dip (lower quickly and then raise) the U.S. Flag to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags and organization or institutional flags are dipped as a mark of honor. Never display the U.S. Flag with the field of stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal. Never let the U.S. Flag touch anything beneath it — ground, floor, water or merchandise. Never carry the U.S. Flag horizontally, but always aloft and free.

Always allow the U.S. Flag to fall free — Never use the U.S. Flag as drapery, festooned, drawn back or up in folds. For draping platforms and decoration in general, use blue, white and red bunting. Always arrange the bunting with blue above, the white in the middle and the red below. Never fasten, display, use or store the U.S. Flag in a manner that will permit it to be easily torn, soiled or damaged in any way. Never use the U.S. Flag as a covering or drape for a ceiling. Never place anything on the U.S. Flag, and never have placed upon it (or on any part of it or attached to it), any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture or drawing of any nature.

Source: department.va.gov





We would like to **honor** and show our **appreciation and gratitude** to each and every veteran and their families for their dedicated service to us and our country!

We send each and every one of you our love, hugs, prayers and blessings always!

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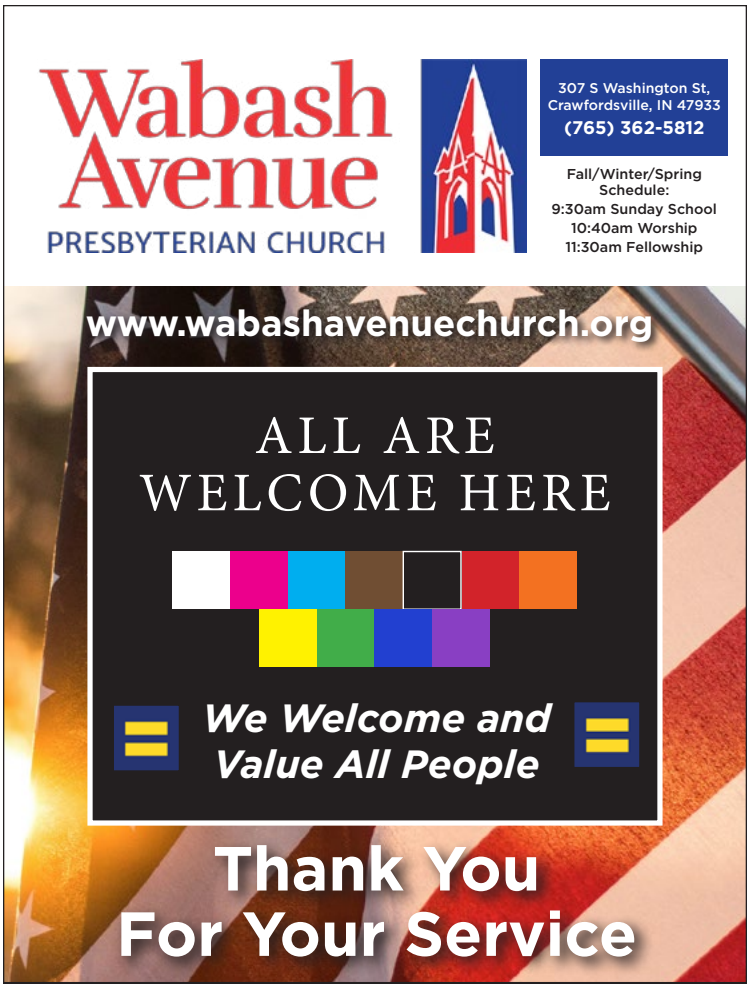
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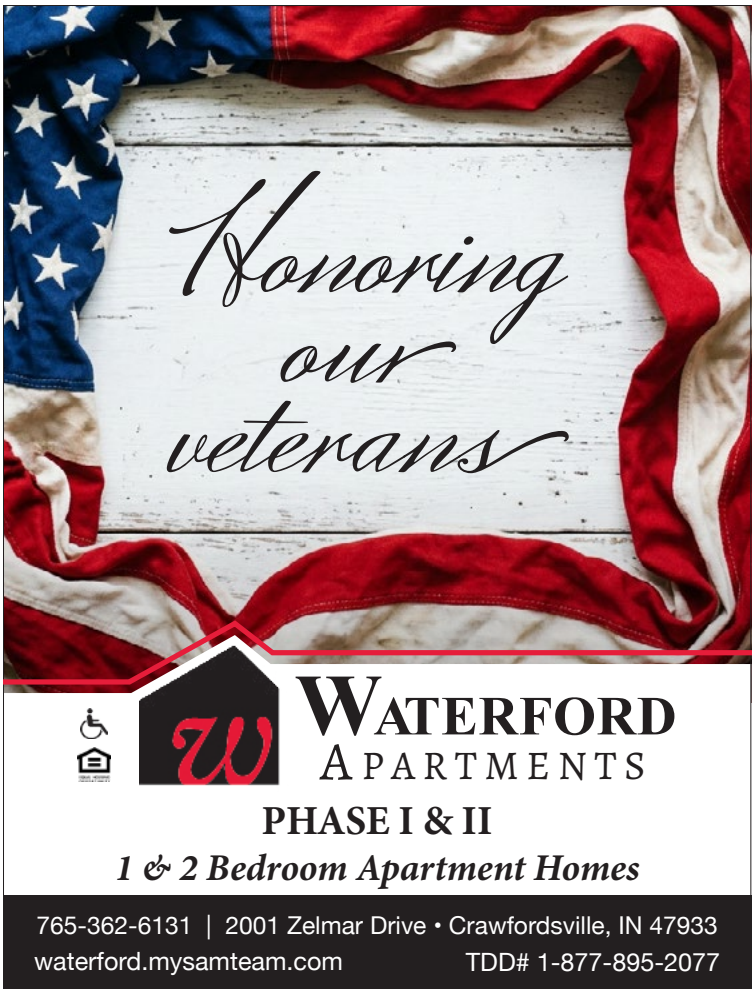
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POW and MIA

A Prisoner of War (POW) is any person captured or placed in prison (interned) by an enemy power during an international armed conflict. Missing in Action (MIA) is a person whose status and/or whereabouts is unknown. A known POW is not "MIA," but a person "MIA" may be an unidentified POW. MIA status is often the temporary report until a serviceperson's whereabouts can be identified and his or her status confirmed. Sadly, some Servicemembers' status becomes permanently MIA. Military POWs and MIAs are all Veterans.

According to the Pentagon's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), as of Aug 8, 2024, there are currently more than 81,200 unaccounted for U.S. personnel, including 72,044 from World War II, 7,465 from the Korean War, 126 from the Cold War, 1,575 from the Vietnam War, and six from Iraq and other recent conflicts. For current counts, please visit DPAA's website at www.dpaa.mil.

The distinctive black and white POW/MIA flag was adopted in 1972 as the official emblem of the National League of POW/MIA Families. Congress has approved displaying the POW/MIA flag at all military and VA facilities.

In 2019, the National POW/MIA Flag Act was signed into law, requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown on designated federal properties, including the U.S. Capitol Building and the White House "on all days the U.S. flag is flown" and "in a manner designed to ensure visibility to the public."

POWs and MIAs remain part of the Nation's Veteran community, and they should never be forgotten, or their sacrifice considered less than that of any other Veteran of the United States.

Name	Captured and Interned	Died While POW	Returned to U.S. Military Control	Refused to Return
GRAND TOTAL	142,186	16,985	125,180	21
World War I	4,120	147	3,973	–
World War II	130,201	14,072	116,129	–
Korean War	7,140	2,701	4,418	21
Vietnam War	725	65	660	–

Source: department.va.gov



America's Wars



WORLD WAR I

(1917 - 1918)

Total Forces 4,734,991
Battle Deaths 53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 63,114
Wounded 204,002



WORLD WAR II

(1941 - 1945)

Total Forces 16,112,566
Battle Deaths 291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 113,842
Wounded 670,846



KOREAN WAR

(1950 - 1953)

Total Forces 5,720,000
Battle Deaths 33,739
Other Deaths (in Theater) 2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 17,672
Wounded 103,284



VIETNAM WAR

(1964 - 1975)

Total Forces 8,744,000
Battle Deaths 47,434
Other Deaths (in Theater) 10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 32,000
Wounded 153,303



GULF WAR

(1990 - 1991)

Total Forces 2,225,000
Battle Deaths 148
Other Deaths (in Theater) 235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 1,565
Wounded 467



Iraq War

(2003 - 2011)

Total Forces 192,000
Killed 4,507
Wounded 32,242

Afghanistan War

(2001 - 2021)

Total Forces ..... 800,000 +
Killed 2,461
Wounded 20,698

Source: department.va.gov

Folding the Flag

When the U.S. Flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning. Many Veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.

When your flag isn't on display, fold it into a triangular shape and store in a safe place to show your respect. Here's how to do it:

Meaning of Flag-Folding Ceremony

The U.S. Flag-folding ceremony represents religious principles that guided the founders of our nation.

The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton of blue containing the stars that represent our 50 states. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted only when draped as a pall on the casket of a Veteran who has served our country honorably.

In the U.S. Armed Forces, at the ceremony of retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's dead. The next morning it is brought out and, with the accompanying sound of reveille, is raised on the flagpole.

Flag etiquette is an important part of the American tradition that ensures the Stars and Stripes is treated with the dignity it deserves. Established by Congress in 1942, the official U.S. Flag Code created guidelines for the care and display of the flag. Although it does not describe an official method for folding the flag, the rules do state that you should never store a flag in a way where it can get torn, soiled or damaged. You should also never let the flag touch anything beneath it, such as the ground or floor.

Over time, a triangular shape has become the traditional way to fold the flag and store it in a safe manner. The exact origin of this specific procedure is unknown, but it may trace back to the Gold Star Mothers of America or the United States Air Force Academy.

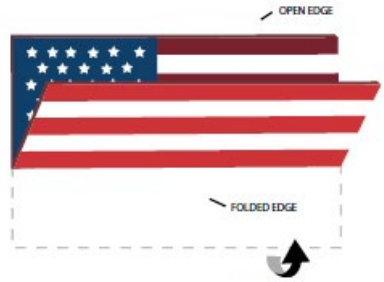
Source: department.va.gov

Follow These Steps

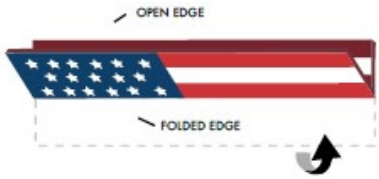
Tip: As you're folding, make sure the crease is perfectly aligned. You can also smooth it out with your hand to get rid of any air bubbles.



Step 1: Start by holding the flag at waist height with another person and stretch it out. The flag, at this step, should be parallel to the floor.



Step 2: Next, fold the bottom half of the section with stripes lengthwise. As such, the stripes will fold over and cover the field of stars. Make sure that both "folders" are holding the top and bottom edges securely.



Step 3: Then, fold the flag lengthwise once more. The blue field of the flag should now be on the outside.



Step 4: Bring the stripes corner from the folded edge to the top open edge of the flag to make a triangular fold.



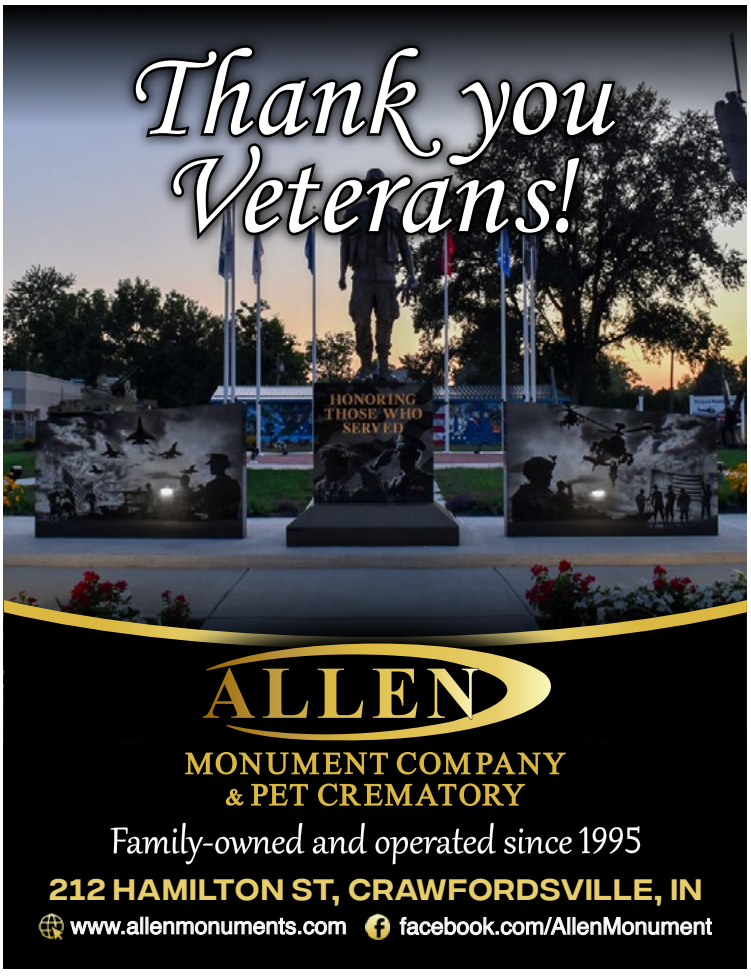
Step 5: Now, form the second triangle by turning the outer end point inward and parallel to the open edge.



Step 6: Continue to make the triangle folds all the way until the end of the flag's entire length.



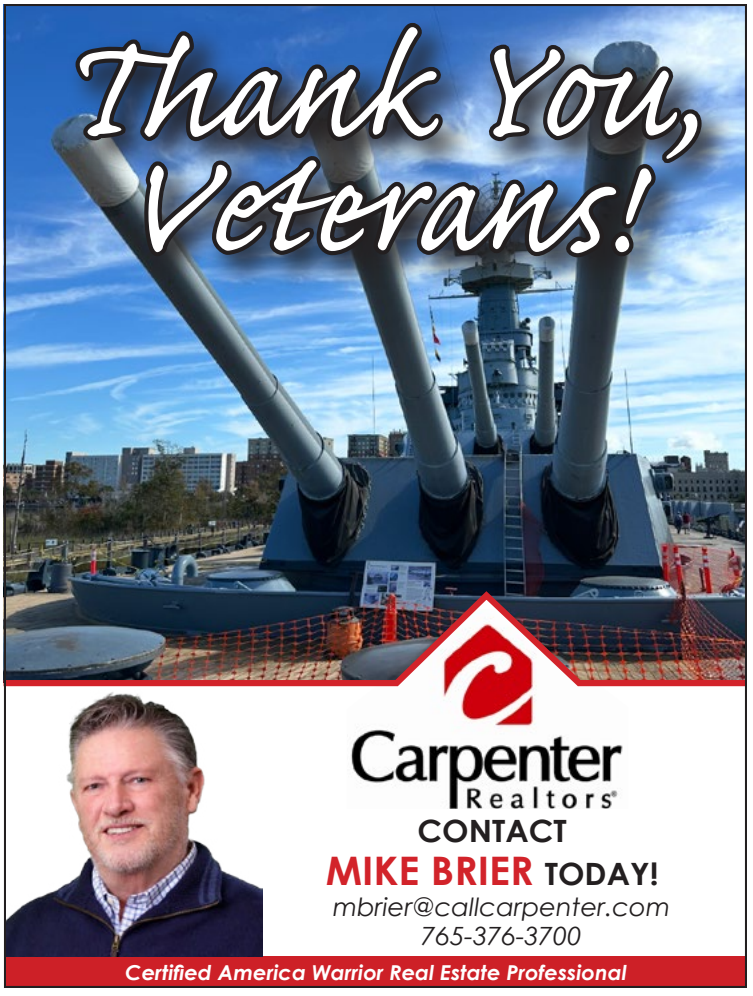
Step 7: Check that the completely folded flag showcases the blue field of stars. The red and white parts of the flag should be wrapped into the blue, like the light of day vanishing into the night's darkness.


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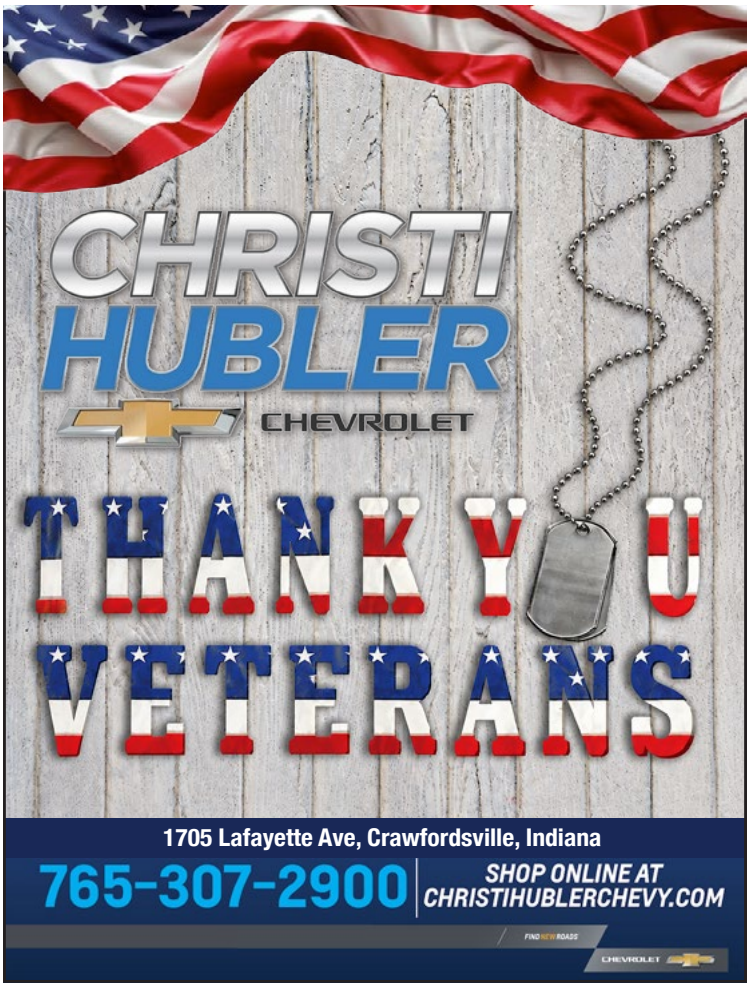

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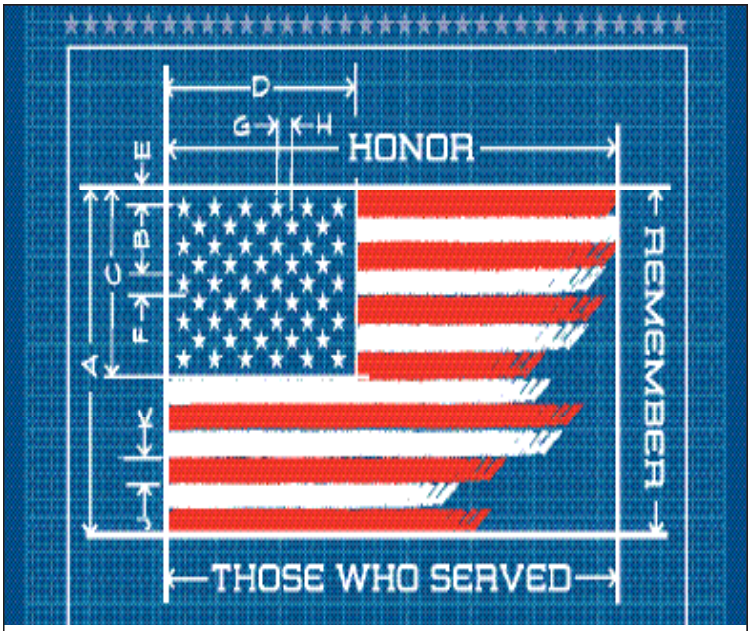
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— Dr. Sabrina Thomas, Military Historian, Professor, Texas Tech University

In the heart of Crawfordsville, Indiana, Veterans Memorial Park stands as a proud and enduring tribute to the brave men and women who have served our nation. This sacred space was created for reflection, remembrance, and gratitude—honoring every branch of the military and every generation of veterans.

Visitors are encouraged to walk the grounds, attend community gatherings, and take a moment to reflect on the courage and sacrifice of those who have worn the uniform. Here, our community comes together to ensure that freedom's defenders are never forgotten.

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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 Veterans 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.

Notable Monuments to Veterans Across the United States

Veterans Day honors the millions of men and women who have sacrificed much to serve in the United States military. Veterans Day is commemorated each year on November 11 because it was that day in 1918 when an armistice was reached between combatants in World War I, which estimates suggest claimed the lives of as many as 22 million people.

There are many ways for Americans to celebrate veterans on Veterans Day. Visiting war memorials can instill a greater sense of appreciation for the men and women who have served in the United States military. The following are some notable war memorials honoring veterans across the United States.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is an iconic memorial located in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Cemetery officials note New York Congressman and World War I veteran Hamilton Fish, Jr., played an integral role in establishing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by proposing legislation that provided for the internment of one unknown American soldier killed during WWI. Guards are now present at the tomb 24/7, and visitors, including U.S. presidents and foreign dignitaries, typically lay a wreath at the tomb to honor the sacrifices of all U.S. veterans.

Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. honors the roughly 1.5 million American veterans who fought alongside forces from the United Nations in a conflict that lasted from 1950 to 1953. Nineteen sculptures depicting U.S. servicemen on patrol during the conflict are among the many notable components of this moving memorial, which also features a wall and pool of remembrance that display the names of the more than 36,000 Americans killed during the Korean War.



Liberty Memorial

The Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, was built in 1926 to honor the brave American service members who lost their lives in World War I. The Liberty Memorial, which is now known as the National World War I Museum and Memorial, is an iconic landmark in Kansas City that features the Liberty Memorial Tower, which rises 217 feet about Memorial Courtyard and 268 feet above the North Lawn. The top of the tower emits a flame at night to create a stunning visual. Memory Hall on the east side of the Liberty Memorial Tower containing a portion of the Panthéon de la Guerre, an iconic French painting that depicts the Allied nations of World War I.

USS Arizona Memorial

The USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii, is dedicated to preserving the memories of the sacrifices of servicemen who fought in the Pacific theater throughout World War II. The memorial marks the resting place of more than 1,100 sailors during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, an event that led to U.S. involvement in World War II. The memorial is accessible exclusively by boat and the sunken remains of the battleship USS Arizona straddle the site.

These are just four of the many notable landmarks that commemorate the sacrifice and service of U.S. military members over the course of the nation's history.



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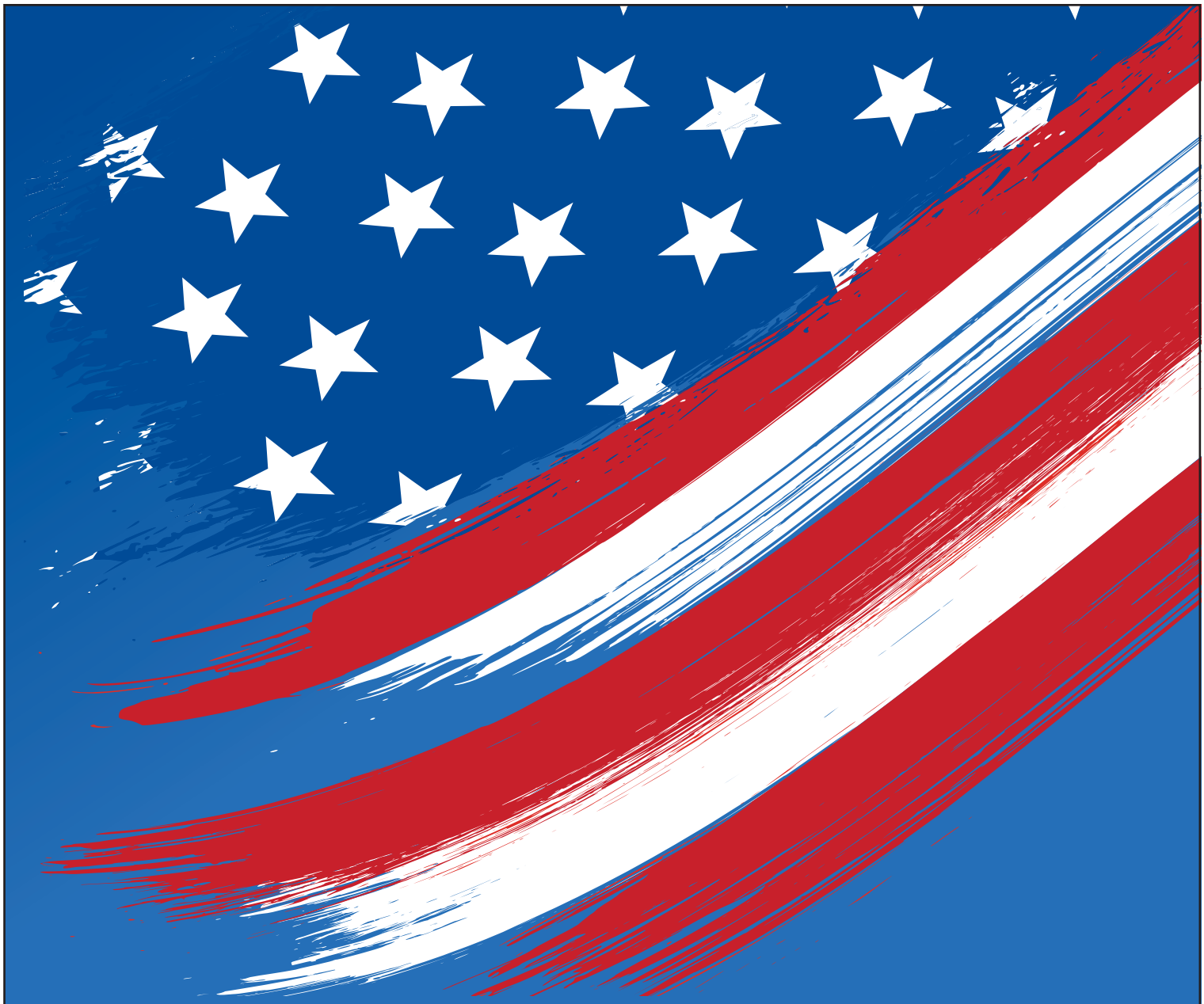
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