

# Veterans Studies Interest Group Listserv

## issue #25, November 2018

This month's Listserv includes Veteran's Day, improvement in veteran homelessness, a new Medal of Honor winner, the recently opened Veterans National Memorial and Museum in Columbus OH and the Veteran's Creed

### Veteran's Day

The 65<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day is rapidly approaching. In Listserv #3, November [2016](#), we reviewed the history of Veterans Day, which dates from the signing of the armistice that ended World War I.

Important in its history are:

- November 11, 1918 – Signing of the the armistice ending World War I.
- November 11, 1919 – President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice [Day](#).
- Red poppies worn on Veterans Day derive from the poem "In Flanders [Fields](#)" by Canadian surgeon John McCrae, 1915 (Dr. McCrae died of meningitis before the war ended).
- May 13, 1936 – A Congressional Act made "Armistice Day", November 11 a legal holiday.
- June 1, 1954 – Armistice Day was renamed "Veterans Day" to honor all Veterans.
- Veterans Day honors and celebrates all Veterans while Memorial Day in May honors those who died in battle.

This year is special because it marks the 100th anniversary of the armistice signed on the "11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month," 1918. Another most unfortunate "11" was the fact that 11,000 soldiers died from the time that the armistice was agreed upon, 5 AM, to its signing at 11 AM, a measure of the carnage that was World War I.

There are numerous activities around Washington DC to honor Veterans on November 11 including wreath laying ceremonies or [observances](#) at:

*The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery, 11 AM*

*Women in Military Service for America Memorial at the Ceremonial Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery 3 PM*

*Vietnam Veterans Memorial 1 PM*

*World War II Memorial 9 AM*

*U.S Navy Memorial 1 PM (November 12)*

*Washington National Cathedral*

*10 AM World War I Commemorative Service, marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice signing*

*5 PM Veterans Day Concert*

*Mount Vernon Special Veterans Day Ceremony 9 AM – 4 PM*

Georgetown University activities in its Military Appreciation Month are [here](#). They include the Georgetown University Veterans Day Ceremony and reception on the Copley Lawn at 3 PM November 12. The speaker will be Gen. (Ret.) George Casey, the 36<sup>th</sup> Army Chief of Staff.

### **Improvement in Veterans' [Homelessness](#)**

As a Veteran's Day gift, there was welcome news on veteran [homelessness](#). According to the annual count of homeless Veterans taken in January and announced in October by VA and HUD Secretaries Robert Wilkie and Ben Carson, the number of homeless Veterans in 2018 is about 38,000. This number is a 5.3% drop from last year and about half the 2008 number of 73,367. In fact, a total of 64 communities have ended veteran homelessness entirely.

A "linchpin" of the federal program is the HUD-VA Supportive Housing [Program](#) (HUD-VASH) which provides housing vouchers coupled with teams of VA caseworkers to prevent homelessness relapse. HUD-VAH started in the early 1990's and was given a funding boost by congress in 2008 and again in 2017 to \$509 million with 84,000 housing vouchers in [use](#). Also important are the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Program which helps disabled Veterans to modify their homes and upticks in mental health services by the [VA](#). Sec. Wilkie has given strong support to these programs.

### **John Canley, Medal of Honor [Winner](#)**

On October 17, Sgt. Maj. John Canley became the latest Medal of Honor winner, for his numerous actions in the Battle of Hue, Vietnam 50 years ago. A video of ceremony is [here](#). Canley, then a Marine Gunnery Sergeant, saved a number of his fellow Marines and led his forces to Hue when his commanding officer was [hit](#). Standing bolt upright at attention for the Medal of Honor ceremony, as if he were still a young gunny, the retired Sgt. Maj. heard President Trump say, "In the days that followed [this event], John led his company through the fog and rain, and in house-to-house, very vicious, very hard combat." And "He assaulted enemy strongholds, killed enemy fighters, and with deadly accuracy, did everything you had to [do](#)." He also liberated a school that had been taken over by the North Vietnamese, charging into machine gun fire with rocket launchers. "The enemy didn't know what the hell happened," Mr. Trump said. In addition, at a hospital compound, 'he twice scaled a wall in full view of the enemy to aid wounded Marines and carry them to [safety](#)."

The retired Sergeant Major has already won the Navy Cross as well as two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. One of his comments about the award was "It's not about me. It's about the Marines who didn't get the appropriate recognition when we got [home](#)." After the 80-year-old Canley was told by the President that he looked much younger, he said "I still work out, sir."



Sgt. Maj. John L. Canley receiving he Medal of Honor from President Trump.  
New York [Times](#)

### **National Veterans Memorial and [Museum](#)**

A new \$82 million National Veterans Memorial and [Museum](#) has opened in Columbus OH. The museum displays the stories of individual Veterans rather than the sweep of historical events. "...it visually visits young recruits aboard military vessels, it tells love stories, it mourns wrenching losses" and "military families cleaved and reunited" in graphics, videos and oral histories. The museum was the vision of former astronaut and Ohio Senator John Glenn to memorialize "ordinary Americans doing extraordinary [things](#)."

### **Veteran's Creed**

On October 17-18, 2018, The American Legion passed a resolution endorsing the Veteran's [Creed](#). The American Legion Resolution states that it "support, by appropriate means, the Veteran's Creed and its eight points; and, be it finally resolved, That the American Legion publish the Veteran's Creed as follows in the Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies:"

#### **The Veteran's Creed**

- 1. *I am an American Veteran***
- 2. *I proudly served my country***
- 3. *I live the values I learned in the military***
- 4. *I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow Veterans***
- 5. *I maintain my physical and mental discipline***
- 6. *I continue to lead and improve***
- 7. *I make a difference***
- 8. *I honor and remember my fallen comrades***

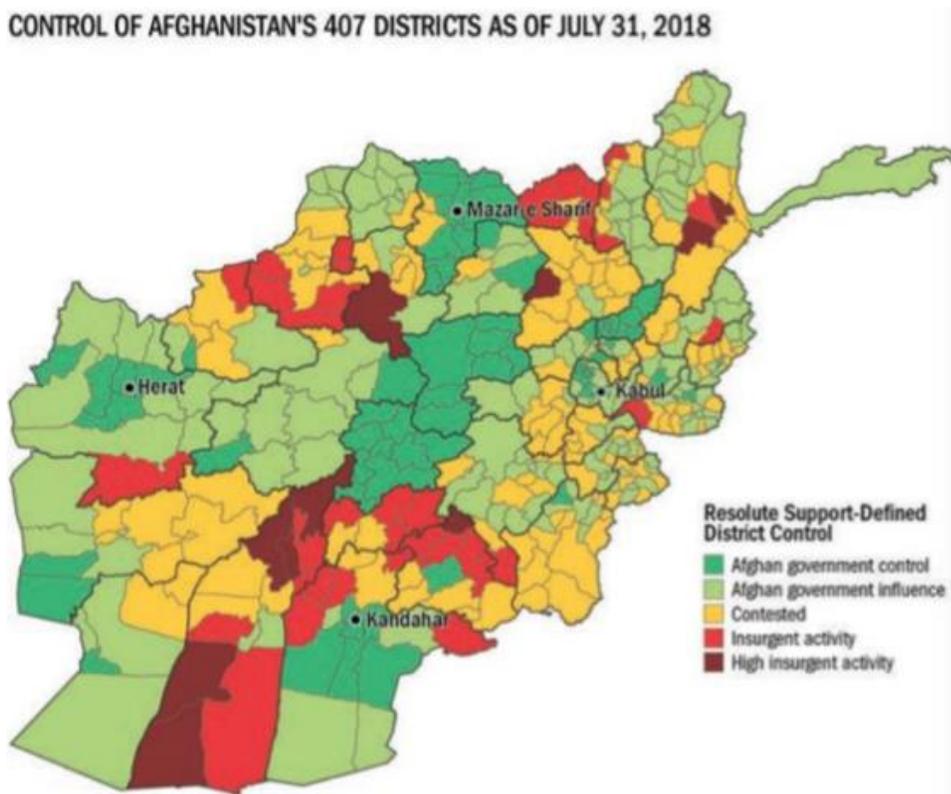
Twelve major Veterans' organizations working with Gen. (Ret.) George Casey and myself, initiated the Veteran's Creed, which has been spreading across their organizations and the country with very positive feedback. A video of the Creed's rollout on Flag Day, 2018 is [here](#).

The Listserv is available as an archive on the Georgetown University Library website under the title "Veterans Interest [Newsletters](#)".

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### Stats Section

CONTROL OF AFGHANISTAN'S 407 DISTRICTS AS OF JULY 31, 2018



From Congressional Research Service [report](#). A district is assigned its district-stability level based on the overall trend of land-area/population control of each district as a whole.