

Veterans Studies Interest Group Listserv

Issue #36 November 2019

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*

This month's Listserv includes Veterans Day's 100th Anniversary; Visits to Pay Tribute on Veterans [Day](#) in DC; Should Conan Get a Purple Heart? and, Dover Air Force Base

Veterans Day's 100th Anniversary

November 11 will mark the 100th anniversary of Veterans Day which was initiated one year after the armistice that ended World War I. A while back, we chronicled the story of this important [day](#). Since we have had many new readers, I repeat the essentials here.

- Veterans Day remembers the Armistice of World War I which occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, November 11, 1918. The Treaty of Versailles that ended the war was signed on June 28, 1919
- In November, 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 physician John McCrae, 1915.
- On June 4, 1926, Congress officially recognized the end of World War I and passed this concurrent and hopeful [resolution](#):

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 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

- Another Congressional act on May 13, 1938 made November 11 a legal holiday to be known as “Armistice Day”, primarily honoring veterans of World War I.
- In 1945, Alabama World War II veteran Raymond Weeks suggested that all veterans be honored. Later, In 1982, President Ronald Reagan awarded the Presidential Citizenship Medal to him.
- On June 1, 1954 Public Law 380 made November 11 a day to honor American veterans of all wars and it was renamed “Veterans Day”.
- Like other holidays, Veterans Day was moved to assure three-day weekends in 1968 and to the fourth Monday in October in 1971, but it was moved back to November 11 no matter what day of the week by law on September 20, 1975 (effective 1978).
- Every year the President, Vice President or other high government official conducts a Veterans Day National Ceremony at Arlington Cemetery at 11 AM with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier who was buried on November 11, 1921. I have attended several of these and it is a moving ceremony.
- Veterans Day occurs one day after the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps, November 10 (1775).
- There are Veterans Day celebrations in a number of other countries including “Remembrance Day” on or near a November 11 in Commonwealth nations and on the following Sunday in the U.K. It is common to include one or two moments of silence at 11 [AM](#).
- Another remembrance of World War I, ANZAC Day (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) in the two countries commemorates their landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey on April 25, 1915. The protocol of ceremonies begins at dawn, the time of the initial attack.
- Veterans Day honors and celebrates all veterans while Memorial Day in May honors those who died in battle.
- Veterans Day is a federal holiday, but most Americans go to work
- For the past two years and again on August 21, President Trump declared all of November as a month to honor veterans’ and military families, extending the traditional Veterans Day celebrations. The month recognizes “the integral role our more than 2.6 million military family members play in supporting our Armed Forces and contributing to their mission.” according to the [President](#).

Finally, remember the purpose and enjoy the day

Visits to Pay Tribute on Veterans [Day](#) in DC

- ✓ *Arlington National Cemetery and the Women’s Memorial* - the wreath laying ceremony at the tomb of the unknown soldier, by the President, Vice-President or other high government official at 11 AM on November [11](#) , perhaps *the* most important Veterans Day [event](#)
- ✓ *National tribute to veterans at the Washington National [Cathedral](#) on November 10 at 7 PM*
- ✓ *Vietnam Veterans [Memorial](#) wreath-laying ceremony, beginning at 1 PM daily*
- ✓ *American Veterans Disabled for Life [Memorial](#) just east of the U.S. Capitol near the Botanic Gardens*

- ✓ *Korean War Veterans [Memorial](#) on the National Mall southeast of the Lincoln Memorial*
- ✓ *National World War II [Memorial](#) at 17th St. and Constitution Ave.*
- ✓ *United States Navy [Memorial](#) on Pennsylvania Ave. and adjacent to the National Archives*
- ✓ *U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima [Memorial](#)) just outside of Arlington Cemetery*
- ✓ *Air Force [Memorial](#) in Arlington VA*
- ✓ *Georgetown University's Veterans Day Ceremony on campus at Copley Lawn, 3 PM, November 11*

Should Conan Get a Purple Heart?

Conan is the heroic Belgian Malinois dog who was wounded chasing down ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as he blew himself up with a suicide vest in Idlib Governorate, Syria on October 26. She chased down the ISIS Leader in a tunnel after being cut loose by her handler. Though receiving minor injuries, she was back on the job [quickly](#) but not without some controversy about awarding her with a Purple Heart.

Conan's history is that she is a military working dog who had undergone the usual high degree of training and selection before being assigned to the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC). The "K-9" corps are held in high esteem by the military. They perform many useful and dangerous functions and are in fact heroic. According to James [Knupperberg](#) who spent nearly 10 years in Afghanistan and himself received a Purple Heart "I would love to see Conan presented a Purple Heart with a live ceremony, I think that the K9 is the most valuable asset on the ground. I don't think that you can replicate through technology or any sort of weaponry what the K9 is capable of." That is the opinion on one side, but others feel that only humans should receive the Purple Heart.

The controversy is not new. In World War I, a canine named "Stubby" fought in the Argonne, survived gas attacks and was said to have captured a German Iron Cross. His remains were sent to the Smithsonian [Institute](#)

The official K-9 corps started during World War II in 1942 and received donations from dog owners around the country. About 18,000 dogs were accepted to the 8-12-week boot camp but only 8,000 made it to active duty. One of the dogs, "Chips" was first a guard dog at the Roosevelt-Churchill Conference in Casablanca and then saw battle in Sicily. Among other deeds, he broke away from his handler to attack a machine gun nest and helped capture a number of combatants. He was awarded a Silver Star, Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart. However, there was controversy from the beginning and the awards became the subject of Congressional discussion. It was finally decided that no more canines or other animals should receive [medals](#).

But the story on Chips was not finished. In a congratulatory ceremony, when then Gen. Dwight Eisenhower bent down to pet the hero, the dog bit him (he was trained to do so when confronting a stranger). In fact, his owner had turned the dog over to the Army after he had bitten a garbage [man](#).



Conan. From Connecting [Vets](#)

Dover Air Force Base

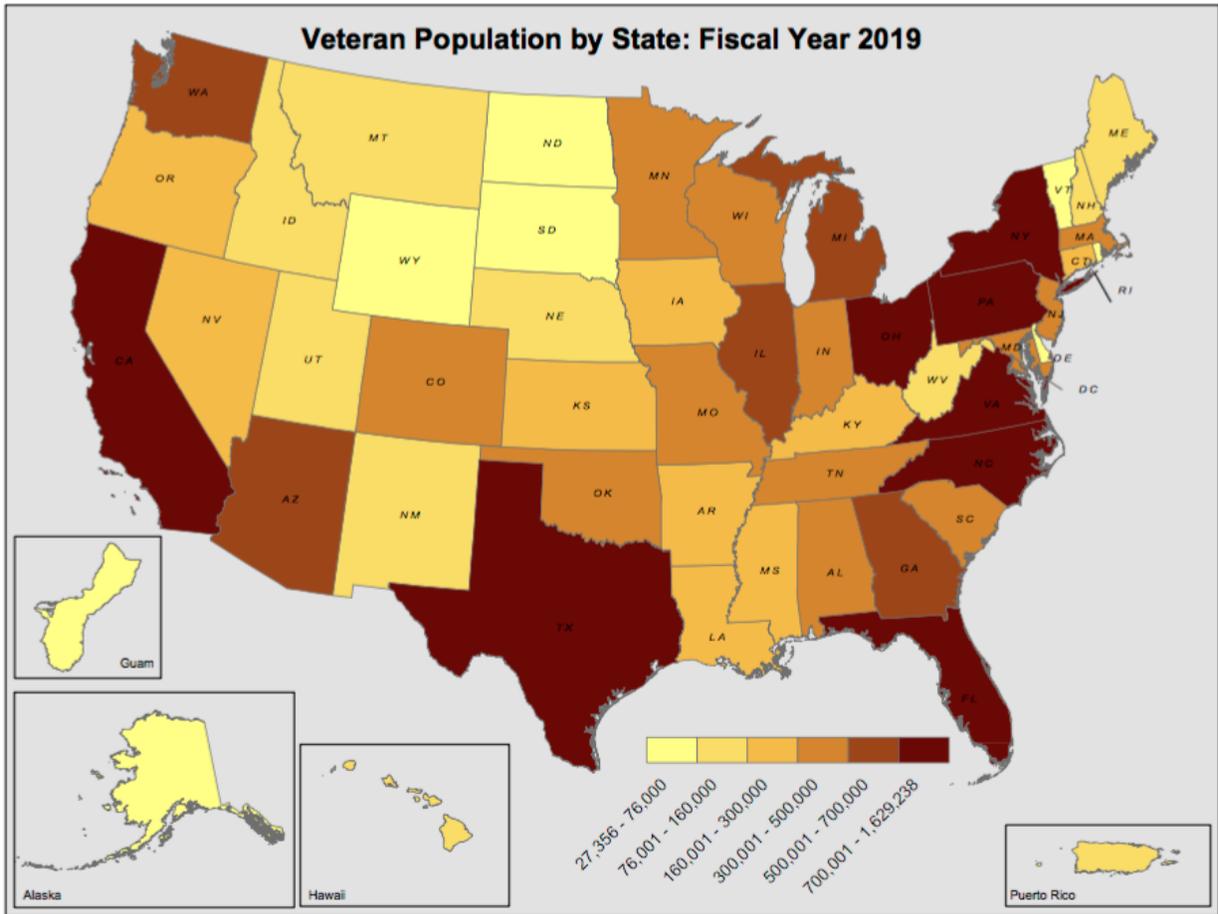
In a moving story, the New Jersey Record describes what it is like when deceased military members' remains return home to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations unit at Dover Air Force Base in [Delaware](#). "We do the behind-the-scenes stuff that nobody wants to think about," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Nicole McMinamin, one of several soldiers who assembles uniforms for the dead at the mortuary unit. The mortuary is open 24 hours a day to receive bodies from overseas. Over the last decade, 2,102 Americans who died in Iraq or Afghanistan arrived in Dover. No matter how they died, their bodies are handled in the same manner. At times high ranking flag officers or even the President will greet the Air Force cargo planes that bring the bodies. One of the first decisions is whether the family can see the deceased or whether the body is too mutilated to view. Family wishes determine the uniform or other clothing for burial (it may be a sports jersey) and where the deceased should rest. Many of the team at Dover develop relationships with the families that last for some time after the bodies are buried. The work is of course draining. As Major Darren Schwartz, a Southern Baptist minister in the Army National Guard assigned to Dover in 2019, said after listening to many tragic tales "This changes you. The challenge is to make sure it changes you for the [better](#)."

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

Veteran Population by State



From [VA](#).