



Veterans Day is the day we honor and celebrate the lives of individuals who served our country in the military. It was originally called Armistice Day which commemorates the end of World War I, which officially ended on June 29, 1919 when the Treaty of Versailles was signed. The fighting ended when the Allies and Germany put an armistice in effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, thus the name 'Armistice Day'.

President Wilson proclaimed November 11, 1919, the first Armistice Day. Congress officially recognized November 11TH as the end of the war. On May 13, 1938, the day became an official holiday set aside to honor veterans of World War I.

Following the conclusions of World War II and the Korean War, Veterans service organizations urged Congress to amend the commemoration to change 'armistice' to 'veterans' to honor American veterans of all wars, which they did on June 1, 1954. President Eisenhower issued the first 'Veterans Day Proclamation later that year.

In 1968 Congress signed the Uniform Holiday bill which stated a few federal holidays, including Veterans Day, would be celebrated on a Monday. The bill recognized Veterans Day as the fourth Monday in October. On October 25, 1971, the first Veterans Day under the new bill was held. However, the change created confusion, many states were unhappy and chose to continue to recognize November 11TH.

Veterans Day is a day of patriotic and historical significance. President Ford signed a law on September 20, 1975, which returned Veterans Day observance to its original date starting in 1978.

Sources: United States Department of Defense
 United States Department of Veterans Affairs