

The Origins of Veterans Day

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as *Armistice Day*.

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was *the War to end all Wars*, November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

ARMISTICE DAY CHANGED TO HONOR ALL VETERANS

Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of WW II and Korea, Congress was requested to make this day an occasion to honor those who have served America in all wars. In 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1973, a law passed providing interment of an unknown American from the Vietnam War, but none was found for several years. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from that conflict was placed alongside the others. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, The 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

NATIONAL CEREMONIES HELD AT ARLINGTON

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11th, a combined color guard representing all military services executes *Present Arms* at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays *taps*.

Every year the President of the United States urges [All Americans](#) to honor the commitment of our Veterans through appropriate public ceremonies.

Veterans Day

November 11, 2009



Ceremonies Held At Site Of
Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial
(Located in Webb Park)

Arranged by the
R.B. Veterans Memorial Association
Through the combined Efforts of

**The Military Order
Of the World Wars**
General J.P. Holland Chapter

And the
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7766





Vice Admiral John W. Nyquist, USN (Ret)

During his career at sea, Vice Admiral Nyquist served in cruisers, destroyers and minesweepers. He commanded USS SEMMES (DDG 18) from 1973 to 1975 and Destroyer Squadrons TWENTY and THIRTY-SIX from 1979 to 1981.

Ashore, VADM Nyquist served on the staff of Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Force, Pacific, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Viet Nam and tours in the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C. He is a plank owner in the Surface Warfare organization which was formed in 1972. Following his selection to flag officer rank in 1981, Vice Admiral Nyquist served as Director, Command and Control Systems (OP-942), and from 1982 to 1985 as Director of the Surface Combat Systems Division (OP-35). His duties included development of the ARLEIGH BURKE Class guided missile destroyer. During this tour, the ship was authorized in the Fiscal Year 1985 budget.

In 1985, VADM Nyquist took command of Cruiser-Destroyer Group FIVE in San Diego, California, commanding the USS CARL VINSON and USS KITTY HAWK Carrier Battle Groups. Following this tour, he returned to Washington to serve as Assistant Deputy CNO (Surface Warfare). In November 1987, served as Assistant CNO (Surface Warfare) until his retirement in February 1991. He takes great pride in his record 15 years in the OP-03 organization, serving in five billets from Commander to Vice Admiral over a 20 year span. In that time, he served under five DCNO's (Surface Warfare).

Following retirement, VADM Nyquist joined Trex Enterprises Corporation in San Diego, California, and served as Director of Operations from 1991 to 2000. He now consults in the defense industry.

VADM Nyquist has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal two Meritorious Unit Commendations. He is married to the former Penelope Ann Lyon of Menlo Park, California. The Nyquists make their home in Coronado, California.



VETERANS DAY

Schedule of Events

10:30 a.m. **Patriotic Musical Prelude** 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band

11:00 a.m. **MEMORIAL PROGRAM Introduction**
— Master of Ceremonies —

Commander Thomas F. Lettington, USN (RET)
President, Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association

Invocation	LCDR Israel Narvaez ChC, USN (Ret)
Presentation of the Colors	Color Guard: 4 th Tank Battalion, US Marine Corps Reserve
Pledge of Allegiance	Major Abe Baum, DSC, AUS (Fmr) Founder and Past President, RBVMA
National Anthem	3 rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band
Posting of Service Flags	Members of VFW Post 7766 and General J.P. Holland Chapter, MOWW
Introduction of Principal Speaker	RADM R. K. Fontaine, USN (RET), VP, RBVMA
Remarks	VADM John W Nyquist, USN (RET)
Retire the Colors	Color Guard, 4 th Tank Battalion USMCR
Benediction	LCDR Israel Narvaez ChC, USN (Ret)
Patriotic Music	3 rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band

The community and the R.B. Veterans Memorial Association sincerely appreciates the contributions to this ceremony by members of the VFW and the MOWW and the U.S. Marine Corps. We also thank Boy Scout Troop 685 for their service in distributing these programs at our ceremony.



A limited number of 4" by 6" bronze plaques for recognition of individual veterans are available for installation at the Veterans Memorial site. Donations to the Veterans Memorial are tax deductible. Call John Cantor for further information at (858) 485-5446