

## 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, 2010



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**



## Captain John P. Gelinne, USN Chief of Staff, U. S. Naval Surface Force



Captain John Patrick Gelinne was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin and grew up in Yorktown Heights, New York. He is a 1984 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. Afloat, Captain Gelinne served as Gunnery Officer and First Lieutenant in USS CONNOLE (FF 1056) and later as Weapons Officer in USS VALDEZ (FF 1096). He was the commissioning Commanding Officer of USS HURRICANE (PC3). Captain Gelinne served as Executive Officer in USS PETERSON (DD 969) and commanded USS KAUFFMAN (FFG 59). His most recent

afloat tour was Commodore, Destroyer Squadron Twenty Two.

Ashore, Captain Gelinne has been assigned to the Surface Warfare Officer School, the Joint Staff, OPNAV Surface Warfare Directorate (N86) and most recently, the 2010 Navy's Quadrennial Defense Review Office.

Captain Gelinne attended the Naval Postgraduate School and the Naval War College, earning Master's Degrees in Information Systems Management and National Security Strategic Studies. During his Joint Staff tour, he attended National Defense University and achieved the Department of Defense Chief Information Officer Certification.

Captain Gelinne's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (2), Defense Meritorious Service, Meritorious Service Medal (3), the Navy Commendation Medal (2), the Navy Achievement Medal (2) and various service and unit awards.

He is married to the former Teresa Consaga and has four children; 2<sup>nd</sup> LT John Gelinne Jr. USMC (25), ENS Aaron (22) USN, Aimee (20) and Abigail (13).



## VETERANS DAY Schedule of Events



<b>10:30 a.m. Patriotic Musical Prelude</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing Band
<b>11:00 a.m. MEMORIAL PROGRAM Introduction</b> — Master of Ceremonies —	
<b>Rear Admiral Richard K. Fontaine, USN (RET)</b> <i>Vice President, Rancho Bernardo Veterans Memorial Association</i>	
<b>Invocation</b>	Capt Dave Korinek, CA Mil Res Chaplain Corps
<b>Presentation of the Colors</b>	Color Guard: MCAS Miramar
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Major Abe Baum, DSC, AUS (Fmr) Founder and Past President, RBVMA
<b>National Anthem</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Marine Aircraft Wing Band
<b>Posting of Service Flags</b>	Members of VFW Post 7766 and General J.P. Holland Chapter, MOWW
<b>Introduction of Principal Speaker</b>	RADM R. K. Fontaine, USN (RET), VP, RBVMA
<b>Remarks</b>	CAPT John P. Gelinne, USN Chief of Staff, Naval Surface Force,
<b>Retire the Colors</b>	Color Guard, MCAS Miramar
<b>Benediction</b>	Capt Dave Korinek, CA Mil Res Chaplain Corps
<b>Patriotic Music</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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**