

Secretary of the Navy
Veterans Day
Pentagon, Arlington VA
Nov. 11, 2018

One hundred years ago, the guns fell silent across Europe on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month of 1918.

The armistice which ended World War One finally ended the most horrific warfare the world had ever seen, and the world began the slow march to recovery that continues to this day.

We remember this war on November 11th, and we remember the toll it took on nations across Europe and in every corner of the globe.

But here in the United States, we also use this day as an opportunity to remember those brave young Americans who left their homes and families to fight, as a popular song went, “Over There.”

They laid their lives on the line to save people they’d never known, in a far off country they’d never seen.

And they made the critical difference which helped bring the fighting to a close.

This was not the first time American troops had gone overseas to the aid of other nations, nor would it be the last.

Throughout the 20th century and on into the 21st, it was American Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen who stepped forward to defend freedom in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq and many other conflicts and challenges.

And so on November 11th we honor them as well.

The eleventh day of the eleventh month marks not just the anniversary of one war where American troops made the difference, but a day to remember all of the generations of warriors that came before them and after.

We now know it as Veterans Day.

And this Veterans Day, I hope you’ll join me in thanking someone who served, whether mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, or neighbor or friend, and also remembering those who still keep the watch and stand guard for freedom to this day.

Take a moment not only to thank them, but ask them to share with you why they chose to defend global safety and security.

We owe them a debt that can never be fully repaid, but which must always be remembered.