

PROCLAMATION

On November 11 each year, we pay tribute to those who served this nation as members of our armed forces.

This holiday initially commemorated the end of World War I, which came at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. One year later, Americans celebrated the first Armistice Day, and it became a national holiday in 1938. In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, President Eisenhower renamed it Veterans Day to honor and commemorate veterans of all wars.

Today, nearly 1.6 million veterans live and work in our state, and many more Californians have close family members who are veterans. These individuals continue to serve their communities as small business owners, civic leaders, first responders, volunteers, mentors and in countless other roles and professions.

We set aside this day to recognize the personal sacrifices American heroes have made to defend our Constitution and the freedoms it guarantees, but also to recognize the enduring respect they deserve every day. Some members of our veteran population experience homelessness, mental health disorders and other challenges after military service. In our boundless gratitude for their service, we must continue our efforts to support veterans and address these important issues.

In the words of President Truman, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

The ongoing pandemic will alter the way we recognize Veterans Day this year in many parts of the state. Though it restricts or prevents the parades, picnics and other gatherings that have become tradition over the decades, it cannot and will not diminish our love, respect and continued support for veterans.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2020, as "Veterans Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 29th day of October 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State