

## 2021 Veterans Day National Patriotic Instruction

Hello Brothers,

I write again in the hopes of putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) to properly put to words the importance of Veterans Day. 103 years ago, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918 the Armistice ending World War I, the War to End All Wars, the Great War, took effect. It was not until 1926 that Congress passed a resolution stating that 11 November would be an annual observance known as "Armistice Day," with it becoming a National holiday in 1938. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name to Veterans Day; a little-known fact for those of us that were not alive in the 70's. Veterans Day was celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in October from 1971-1974 with President Gerald Ford returning Veterans Day to November 11<sup>th</sup> in 1975. 11 November is now set aside for us to thank, honor, and remember those brave men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces during any time or in any place.

Now that we have outlined the brief history of the day, and hopefully put its importance into words, we turn our eyes towards those who have signed the blank check to our country to give anything, including their lives to defend it, and we thank them. In today's day and age, it is easy to forget why it is so important to recognize that people are willing to lay down their lives to defend our country. Sometimes it is because we get caught up in our day to day lives and do not realize how good we have it. Other times it is because we get caught up in current events and the negativity that is usually published. That is because unfortunately the feel-good stories do not drive ratings for media companies. Well, the fact that we have a media that can publish these heartwarming stories at times, uncensored and freely under the Constitution, and that we have things so good here, that most times in our day to day lives we do not even think about the freedoms the Constitution give us. Why don't we think of these freedoms? Because they are part of our everyday lives and we don't even realize it most times, we have become so used to our Rights being around that sometimes we take them for granted. We still, to this day have these rights, because of these brave souls and is exactly why we should thank these men and women. If it weren't for them, we would not have these Rights.

On a personal note, Veterans Day is a day of reflection to those around me, my closest friends that have signed the blank check. Two of my closest friends come to mind, Thomas "Tommy" Bourget and Isabel Villanis come to mind. Tommy has been a friend since the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, a man my boys know as Uncle Tommy, who has served multiple combat deployments with the US Army, all while leaving his wife Eileen and young children Caroline and Ethan back at home. Isabel, who served stateside in the Army, has been a close friend for the past decade and is someone that friends and family alike have always been able to count on in both times of need and joy. Both of Tommy and Isabel sacrificed time with their families and friends to ensure that this country, and all of those in it, are safe, and that the Rights we think of as second nature, were never infringed, they and all their Brothers and Sisters have earned our thanks and respect this Veterans Day.

We all know someone who has served or is currently stationed outside the US. Someone that has come home from deployment that was wounded in action, or who suffers from the unseen wounds of war. We all know those who after graduation from high school or college we lost touch with only to find out later that they joined the armed forces. These men and women volunteered to serve our Nation, they did it not for the fame or the glory, but to give back to something that is greater than themselves and to ensure that both their loved ones, and complete strangers, can enjoy the same freedoms that our ancestors enjoyed. That is why they deserve our thanks and praise this 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,  
Br. Ben Frail, PDC  
National Patriotic Instructor