

Veterans Day November 11, 2010

Memorial Day and Veterans Day are similar but distinct national holidays. Memorial Day is a day set aside to remember and honor service men and women who have died in conflict. Veterans Day, originally named Armistice Day, commemorated the end of conflict in World War I on November 11, 1918. Ninety years have passed and Americans continue to dedicate this day to all military men and women who have served in conflict.

It has been said: **A Veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to “the United States of America” for an amount “up to and including my life.”**

“Why?” we ask would anyone make so bold a promise, so brave a gesture, so willing a sacrifice? The reasons are as many as the individuals: Honor, Love of Freedom, Patriotism, Loyalty, Pride of Country, Conviction of Principles, Search for Adventure.

Whatever the motivation, each person who commits to serve our country in the armed forces, sacrifices years...years which could have been spent in the comfort of home and with loved ones. Instead they entered into a contract with us, to defend and protect us, at home and abroad, whatever the cost, wherever they are called to be, however great the terror, loneliness, pain, fatigue, discouragement or disappointment.

These are our heroes...and on this day we raise them up in honor, gratitude and love.

And so today, we join with fellow Americans throughout our land, to honor and thank our Veterans, remembering their willingness to write that blank check... **“Payable to the United States of America” in an amount “up to and including my life.”**

May God bless all Veterans and their families and God bless the United States of America.