

Ideas and Resources for the Observance of Veterans' Day



RCW 28A.230.160

"...there shall be presented in each common school educational activities suitable to the observance of Veterans' Day...such programs shall embrace topics tending to instill a loyalty and devotion to the institutions and laws of this state and nation."

"Anytime we ask students to buy into a concept or virtue, we can't ask them to do it blindly."

Jim Ayers

Vietnam veteran and retired school principal

Supporting Troops in the U.S. Armed Forces

Operation USO Care Package

Created in 2003, the Operation USO Care Package program provides care packages to deployed service members serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and other overseas locations. Due to heightened security, individuals can no longer send letters and packages marked for delivery to "Any Service Member." For every \$25 donation you make, the program sends a care package valued at approximately \$75 to a deployed service member. <https://www.uso.org/donate/custom.aspx?id=851&p=476>

America Supports You

America Supports You is a Department of Defense program that provides opportunities for citizens to show their support for the US Armed Forces. The program was launched in 2004 in an effort to highlight citizen support for our military men and women and communicate that support to the members of our Armed Forces at home and abroad. The Web site is a clearing house for all support groups as well as a resource for soldiers seeking information.

<http://www.americasupportsyoud.com/AmericaSupportsYou/about.html>

Iraq Veterans Against the War

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants citizens the right to "peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." Exploring the perspectives of former soldiers actively engaged in ending the war in Iraq is a way of highlighting a principle granted in the Bill of Rights and honoring their opinions.

<http://ivaw.org/>

The Hugs Project

The Hugs Project started in May 2004 in Oklahoma by Ray and Karen Stark. It is a non profit 501 C 3 organization that sends ties (affectionately nicknamed "hugs" since they go around the neck) to the Middle East. This group was the first to recognize the need to help keep American troops cool during the summer and warm during the winter. The organization also sends care packages and other handmade items to service men and women overseas.

<http://www.thehugsproject.com/index.html>

Soldiers' Angels

Soldiers' Angels is a volunteer-led nonprofit with over [20 different teams and programs](#) supporting all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. They send letters, care packages and comfort items to the deployed, and they support the families here at home. Additionally, they provide assistance to the wounded, continuing support for veterans, remembrances and comfort for families of the fallen, and immediate response to unique difficulties.

<http://www.soldiersangels.org/>

Department of Veterans' Affairs

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has a useful Website divided into three sections: Students K-5, Students 6th-12th, and a Teacher's Page. The Teacher's Page contains an interesting collection of stories about some of America 's customs and national symbols.

<http://www.va.gov/kids/>

2007 Teacher Resource Guide

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/docs/schoolkit.pdf>

Veterans Day Regional Sites

Each year, the Veterans Day National Committee recognizes select Veterans Day observances throughout the country that represent fitting tributes to America's heroes. From stirring parades and ceremonies to military exhibits and tributes to distinguished veterans, these events serve as models for other communities to follow in planning their own observances.

<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/reqsites.asp>

Veterans History Project, Library of Congress

The Veterans History Project created by an act of Congress in 2000 relies on volunteers to collect and preserve stories of wartime service. The site includes access to video and audio files of veterans telling their stories.

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

Experiencing War: Hispanics in Service

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-hispanicveterans.html>

Veterans Resource Guide

From African American Military Photo Museum to Women Army Corp Association, this site contains over 500 links to organizations celebrating Veterans' Day.

<http://members.aol.com/veterans/warlib69.htm>

School Websites Documenting a Successful Veterans' Day

~Byron-Bergen Central Schools, New York

Two examples of a student produced PowerPoint presentations.

<http://www.bbcs.k12.ny.us/veterans/veteransday2002.htm>

<http://docushare.edutech.org/dsweb/Get/Document-15538/veterans+day+presentation.ppt>

~Chatham Central High School FBLA

An example of assembly agenda containing links to information on the history of Taps, Veterans' Day, the Star Spangled Banner and other people, places and things associated with Veterans' Day.

http://www8.chatham.k12.nc.us/holidays/cchs_vets_03/

~Darlington School, Rome Georgia

The purpose of the Darlington School observance was to recapture the original intent of the holiday.

<http://www.darlingtonschool.org/news/viewstory.asp?storyID=12701~District 200>

~District 200

A list of the observances presented at each of the schools in the district.

http://www.cusd200.org/headlines/veterans_day.htm

~Plano Independent School District

Contains a list of the planned activities for the schools in the district.

<http://www.pisd.edu/news/archive/2004-05/veterans.day.shtml>

Miscellaneous Resources

WASCNews Observance Idea Page, September 1997

- Flag presentation
- Sing patriotic songs and explain the history behind them
- Band/choir performances
- Banners and signs
- Read letters from soldiers
- Send letters to people serving in the armed forces
- Speeches and essays
- Audiovisual presentations
- Dramas
- Recite poem "Flander's Field"
- Research stories behind Congressional Medal of Honor awardees
- Paraphrase the flag salute
- Purchase small flags for all
- Prisoner of war speech
- Sing all the verses to the Star Spangled Banner
- Moment of silence
- Candle light service
- Wreath to local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter
- Read Dr. Seuss book, The Butter Battle Book
- Read Mark Twain's "The War Prayer"
- Red, white and blue day
- Armed services hat day
- Write letters to people in veterans' hospitals and homes
- Invite veterans from the community to an assembly
- Map showing where current armed forces personnel are stationed
- Research current wars in the world

~A Guide to the Veterans' Memorials located at the capitol campus in Olympia

<http://www.ga.wa.gov/visitor/self-guide.htm>

~Articles from Prairie Wheeler October 1997 on Veterans' Day Vet day

A few short articles highlighting the main symbols of Veterans' Day: Armistice Day, Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

<http://www.crk.umn.edu/newsevents/notices97-98/veteran/veterans.htm>

~North of Boston Library Exchange

Veterans' Day Links: Arlington National Cemetery, U.S. Flag Home Page, Poem: Flander's Field, American Battle Monuments Commission.

<http://www.noblenet.org/year/veterans.html>

~Results of Veterans' Day Search on Infoplease.com

This site contains Veterans' statistics, history of the holiday, war poetry, and more

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/veteransday1.html>

~Stars and Stripes Veterans' Day Quiz

The Family Education Network provides parents, teachers, and kids with resources to online consumer learning and information resources.

<http://familyeducation.com/topic/front/0,1156,22-26229-1,00.html>

~Take A Veteran to School Day

The History Channel is sponsoring the national "Take a Veteran to School Day" campaign, which is non-partisan experience for students in grade K-12. The goal is to link veterans of all ages with young people in our schools and communities.

http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=mini_home&mini_id=54799

War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.

~John F. Kennedy