

# The Origin of “Veterans Day”

- ★ On November 11, 1921, an unknown American soldier killed during World War I was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
- ★ This special site, now called **“The Tomb of the Unknowns,”** soon became the focal point of honors for America’s Veterans.
- ★ The 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month marked the end of World War I fighting on the Western Front in 1918. Other nations established memorial observances for this day.
- ★ In 1926, the Congress declared November 11<sup>th</sup> as “Armistice Day.” This day became a national holiday by act of Congress in 1938.
- ★ World War II veteran Raymond Weeks organized the first National Veterans Day ceremony. This was held in Birmingham, Alabama on November 11, 1947.
- ★ In 1954, President Eisenhower signed the law that changed the name from “Armistice Day” and established November 11<sup>th</sup> each year as “Veterans Day.”
- ★ Go to [www.va.gov/vetsday](http://www.va.gov/vetsday) for more information provided by the Veterans Day National Committee.