Veterans Day 2005

Kid's Packet

Don't Forget, thank a Vet!

Hi! I'm Tags the Dog. I'm a guard dog at Arlington National Cemetery. Usually it's pretty quiet around here, since it's a cemetery, but on November 11th, 40,000 people visit for the Veterans Day celebrations.

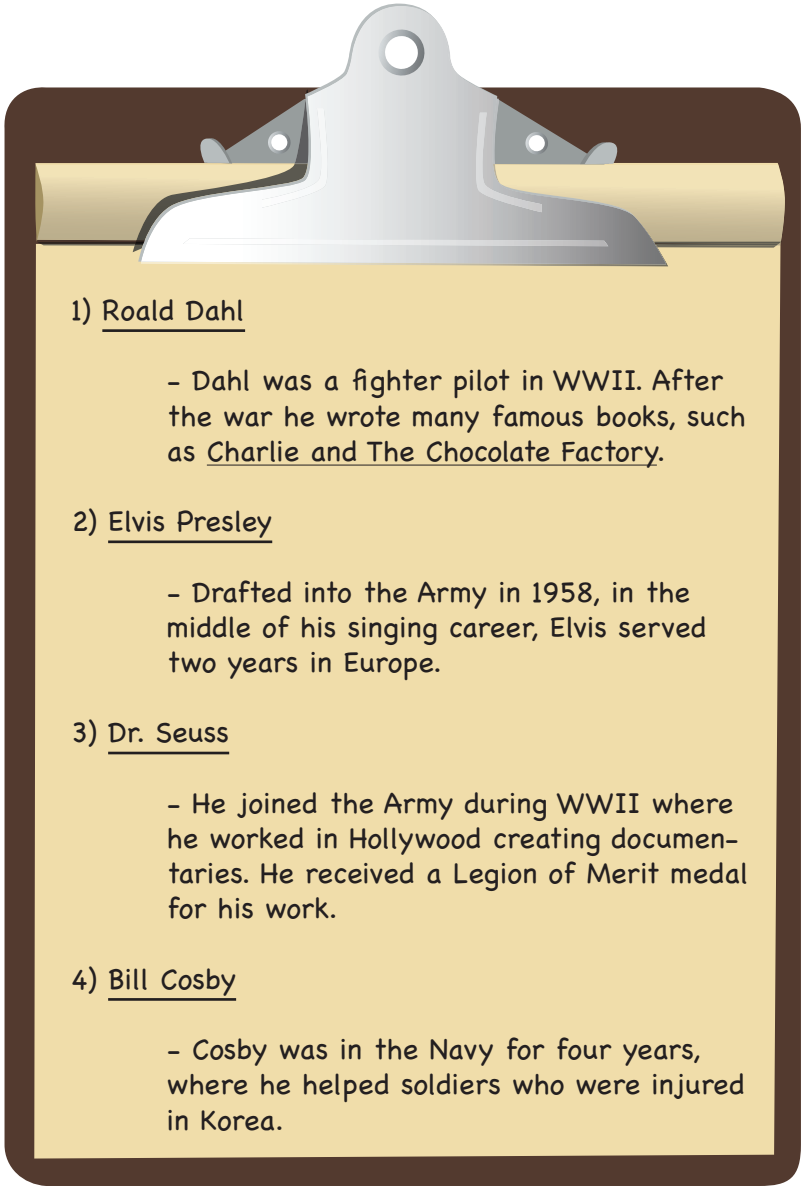
I can't wait for Veterans Day. I will meet the President, our courageous men and women in the Armed Forces and many brave veterans. Veterans Day is a very exciting and important day. There is so much to do and learn to get ready for Veterans Day!

Have you ever met a veteran?

A veteran is a man or woman who has served in the military, in peacetime or fought in a war. Veterans work to protect us and our freedom.

I meet many veterans here at Arlington National Cemetery. I bet you have met a few as well. Maybe you have a parent or grandparent who is a veteran or an aunt, uncle, sister or brother.

I made a list of some of the people I know who are veterans and you could too.



I told my friends Fiddo and Fluffy about veterans. We wanted everyone to learn about veterans, so we put on a play for their class.

INTRODUCTION: The following is a presentation set in a school library where fifth grade students have been sent to do a research project on veterans and the Veterans Day holiday.

SETTING: Table in Media Center

Student 1: Hey, did you bring your markers and paper?

Student 2: Yes. I have everything we'll need for our pictures and drawings.

Student 1: What are we going to draw?

Student 2: Silly! You know we're here to research veterans and the Veterans Day Holiday on November 11th.

Student 3: How do I draw a veteran? I don't even know what it is.

Student 4: A veteran is a "who" and not a "what." You'd better start by going to the dictionary and looking up the definition of a "veteran."

Student 3: What do you mean a veteran is a who?

Student 1: Go look it up! We can use the definition in our project!

Student 3: Is a veteran a person?

Student 2: Go look it up in the dictionary!

Student 3: All right! All right! (Student 3 pages through dictionary.) Here it is, "A veteran is a person who has served in the armed forces, an experienced soldier, especially one who served in time of war. Veterans Day is a legal holiday in the United States honoring all veterans of the armed forces."

Student 1: See, a veteran isn't a "what," it's a person who died for our country. They're the ones that get flags put on their graves on holidays.

Student 4: No! No! No! A veteran isn't always someone who died in a war, or who even fought in a war at all.

Student 3: She's right. A veteran is a man who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force.

Student 4: Well, you're half right.

Student 2: What do you mean I'm "half right"?

Student 4: Well, women can be veterans too. Many women have served our country in the Armed Forces in times of peace and in times of war. Women can be veterans too.

Student 3: You mean a veteran doesn't have to have been in a war?

Student 1: No. Just having been in the Armed Forces makes a person a veteran.

Student 2: Wow! Veterans are really special people aren't they? I mean, if a person is in the Armed Forces and we have a war, then they have to go. Right?

Student 4: No, not really. Veterans are people who have already served, but are no longer in the Armed Forces of our country. My grandfather is a veteran. He was in the Korean War, and my uncle Jake is a veteran too because he was in the Navy.

Student 3: You know, veterans really are special people and they deserve to be honored with a holiday.

Student 1: There are a lot of patriotic songs that honor veterans and our country. Maybe we could include a song with our project.

Student 2: I think there's a song book over here that has all the words to patriotic songs.

Student 4: Great! Let's pick out one that everybody can sing along with.

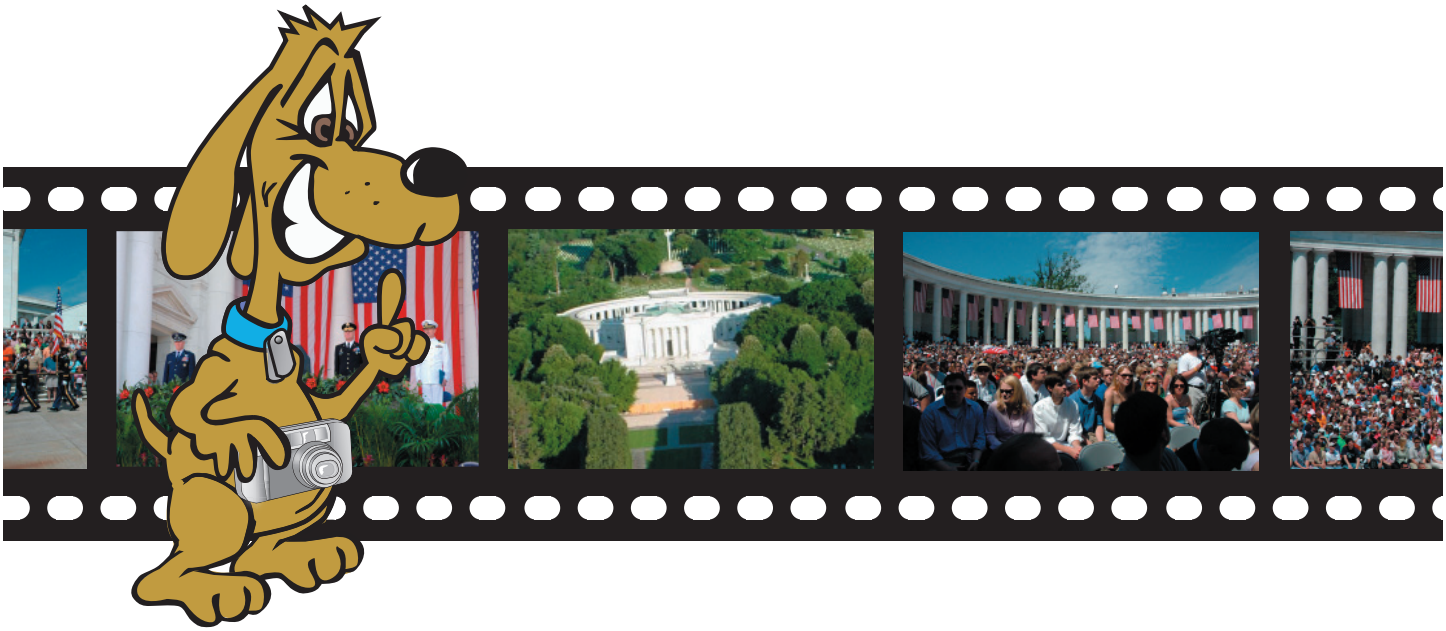
Student 3: Veterans Day would be a good time to remember and to thank veterans for all they have done for us and for our country.

Finale: A patriotic song, such as The National Anthem, God Bless America, America the Beautiful, or God Bless the U.S.A., is performed by the actors or an assembled group of students. The rest of the students also may be encouraged to sing along.

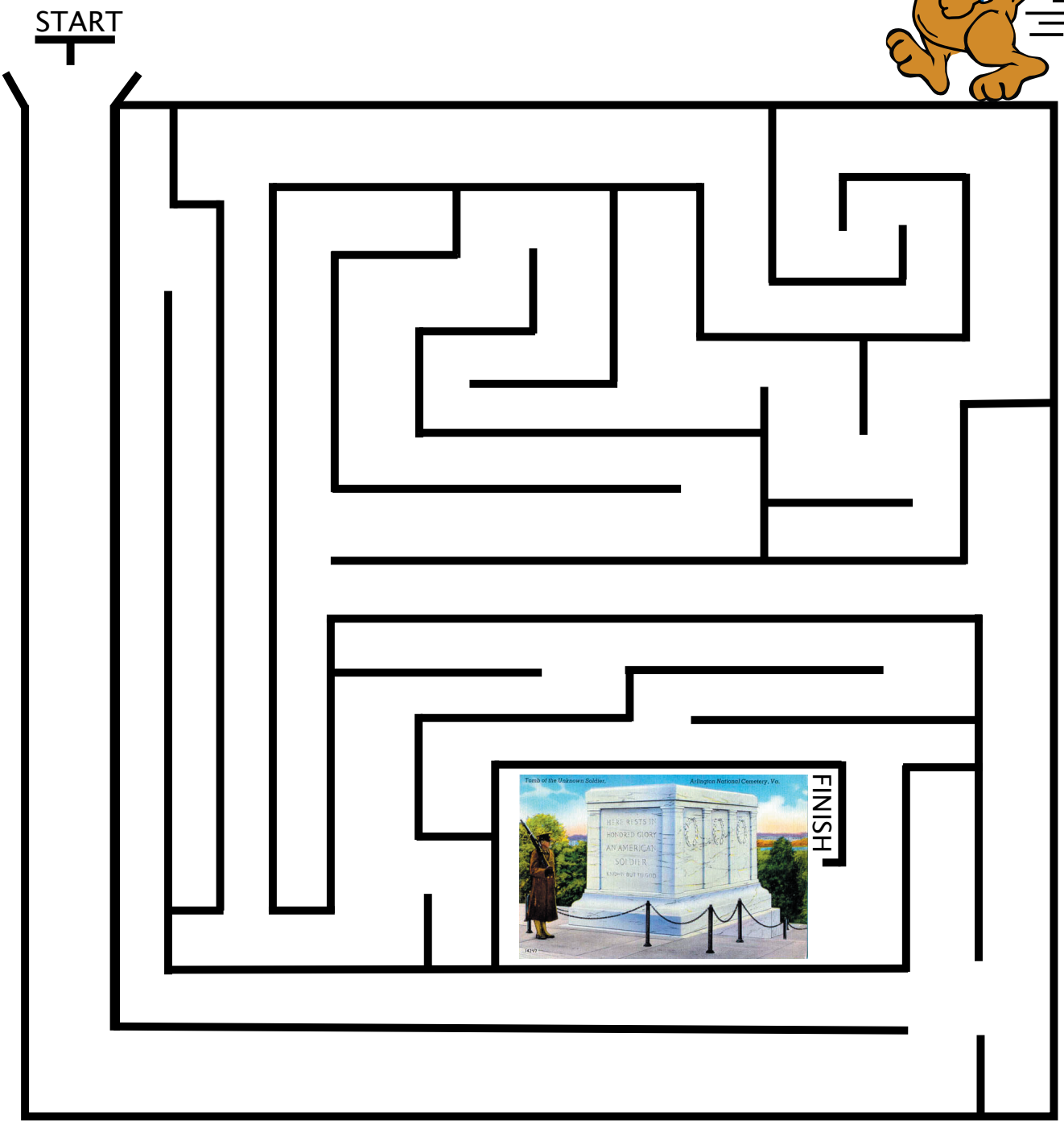
Veterans Day takes place on the 11th of November every year. Veterans Day is celebrated all over the country with parades and celebrations. One big national celebration takes place at Arlington National Cemetery. During this celebration, the President of the United States places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. After this, a bugler sounds "Taps" which is followed by a parade that includes many veterans groups. Veterans day takes place on the 11th because in 1918 at 11 a.m. World War I ended. That was the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month. That day became know as Armistice Day but the peace did not last and a second World War broke out.

The first Veterans Day parade was held in 1947. A man named Raymond Weeks helped to organize it in Birmingham, Alabama in order to honor "All of America's veterans for their loyal service." Then in 1954, President Eisenhower made Veterans Day a national celebration and so now every year on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, the President places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, where he honors all Americans who have fought and died to serve our country!

In 1921, after the end of World War I, an American soldier was buried on a Virginia hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C. He was given a big funeral and buried in a large marble tomb, but he wasn't a famous man, his name was "known but to God." He fought bravely in World War I, but when he died no one could figure out who he was. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery as a symbol for all those who lost family members in the war and were unable to bury their loved ones. His tomb now symbolizes our dignity and reverence for all America's veterans.



Help Tags the dog get back to Arlington National Cemetery before 11:00 am. He better hurry the ceremony starts soon!



INSTRUCTIONS:

Unscramble each of the clue words

Copy the letters in the grey cells to the cells in the secret word with the corresponding number.

Have Fun!

EORH 4

VERAB 1

ROONH 7

REDEMOF 2

CORGUEA 6

OSILEDR 5

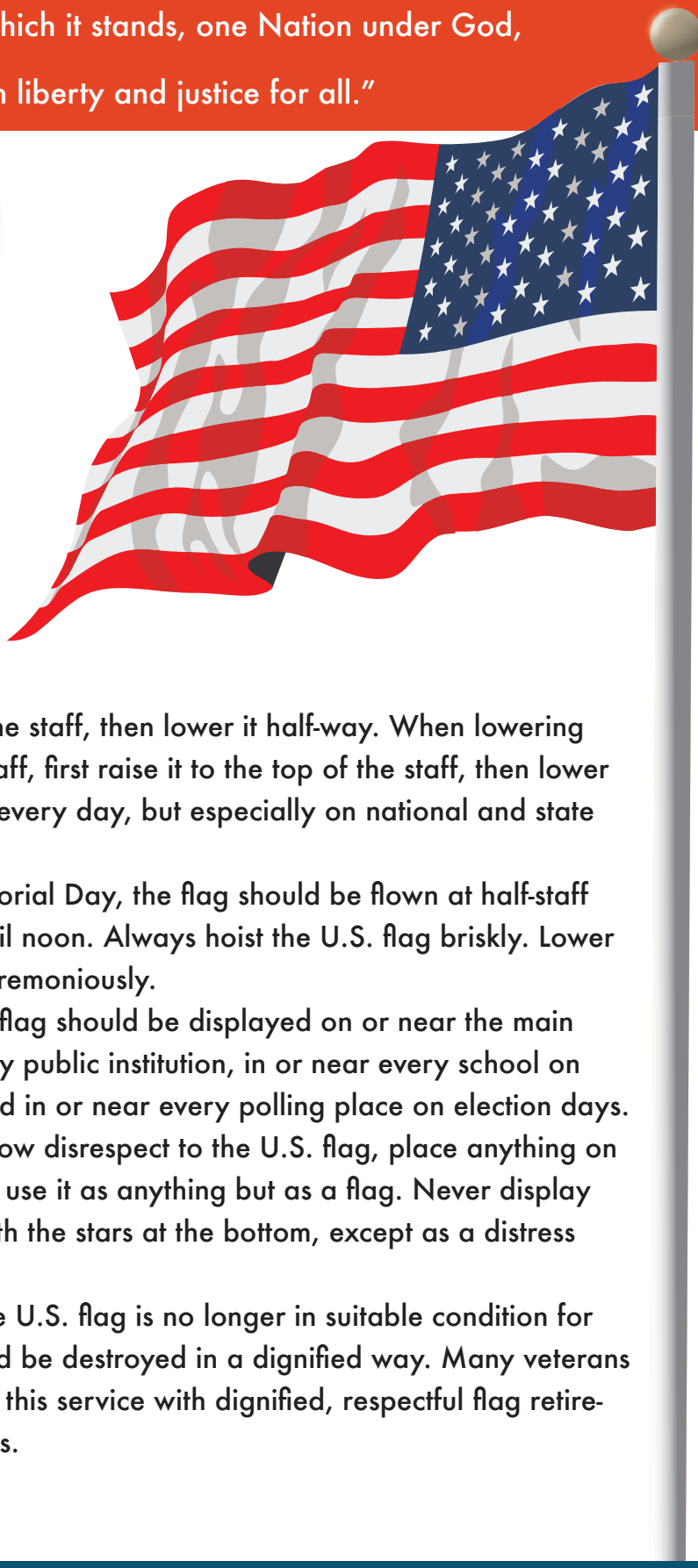
CETREPS 3

SECRET WORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Respecting The Flag



The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag should be given by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart.

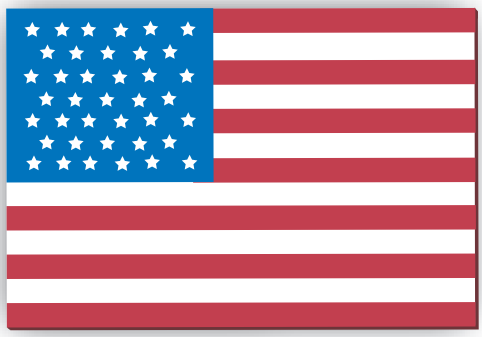
When raising the flag to half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it half-way. When lowering a flag that has been flying at half-staff, first raise it to the top of the staff, then lower it all the way. Display the U.S. flag every day, but especially on national and state holidays.

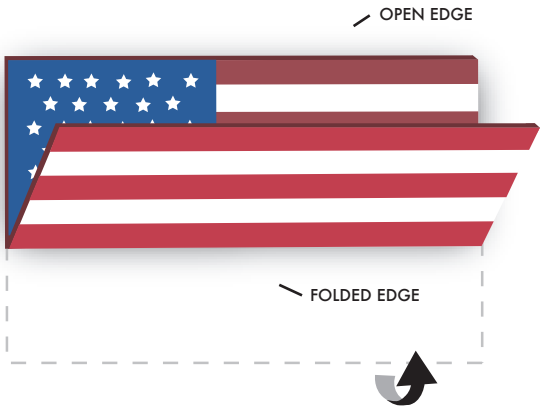
On Memorial Day, the flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon. Always hoist the U.S. flag briskly. Lower it slowly and ceremoniously.

The U.S. flag should be displayed on or near the main building of every public institution, in or near every school on school days, and in or near every polling place on election days.

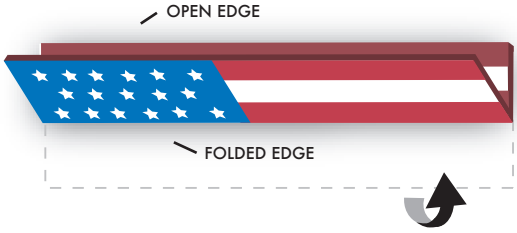
Never show disrespect to the U.S. flag, place anything on it, draw on it or use it as anything but as a flag. Never display the U.S. flag with the stars at the bottom, except as a distress signal.

When the U.S. flag is no longer in suitable condition for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way. Many veterans groups perform this service with dignified, respectful flag retirement ceremonies.





(a) Fold the lower striped section of the flag over the blue field.



(b) Folded edge is then folded over to meet the open edge.

(c) A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.

(d) Outer point is then turned inward parallel with the open edge to form a second triangle.

(e) Triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in the triangular shape with only the blue field visible.

Folding the Flag

VA NATIONAL REHABILITATION SPECIAL EVENTS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Rehabilitation Special Events promote the healing of body and spirit. They motivate eligible veterans to reach their full potential, improve their independence, achieve a healthier lifestyle and enjoy a higher quality of life.

Each year VA sponsors four national events for U.S. military veterans served by VA medical facilities nationwide. Each program enhances physical, social and emotional well-being of veterans who participate. Veterans involved in these events and the hundreds of VA employees and volunteers who support them each year all share a strong sense of purpose and camaraderie.

The four special events are the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, National Veterans Wheelchair Games, National Veterans Golden Age Games and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. To learn more about how to get involved, please log onto:

www1.va.gov/opa/speceven

"The Winter Sports Clinic has made a big difference in my life. I believe that there is life after an injury, and the Climic teaches you to adapt to your disability and to believe in yourself. I enjoy sharing with newly injured veterans what is possible."

-Terry Livingston

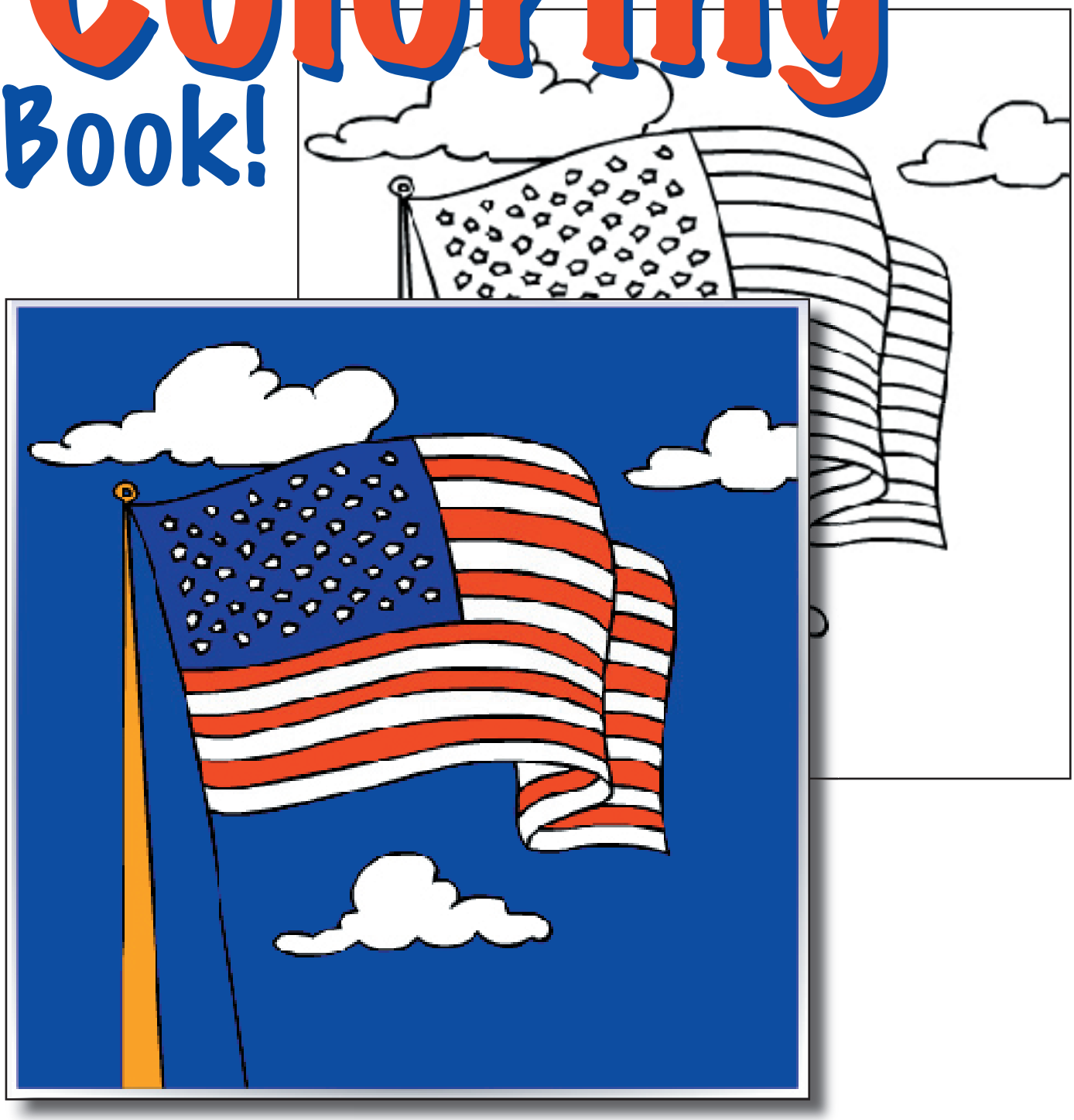
Winter Sports Clinic

Wheelchair Games

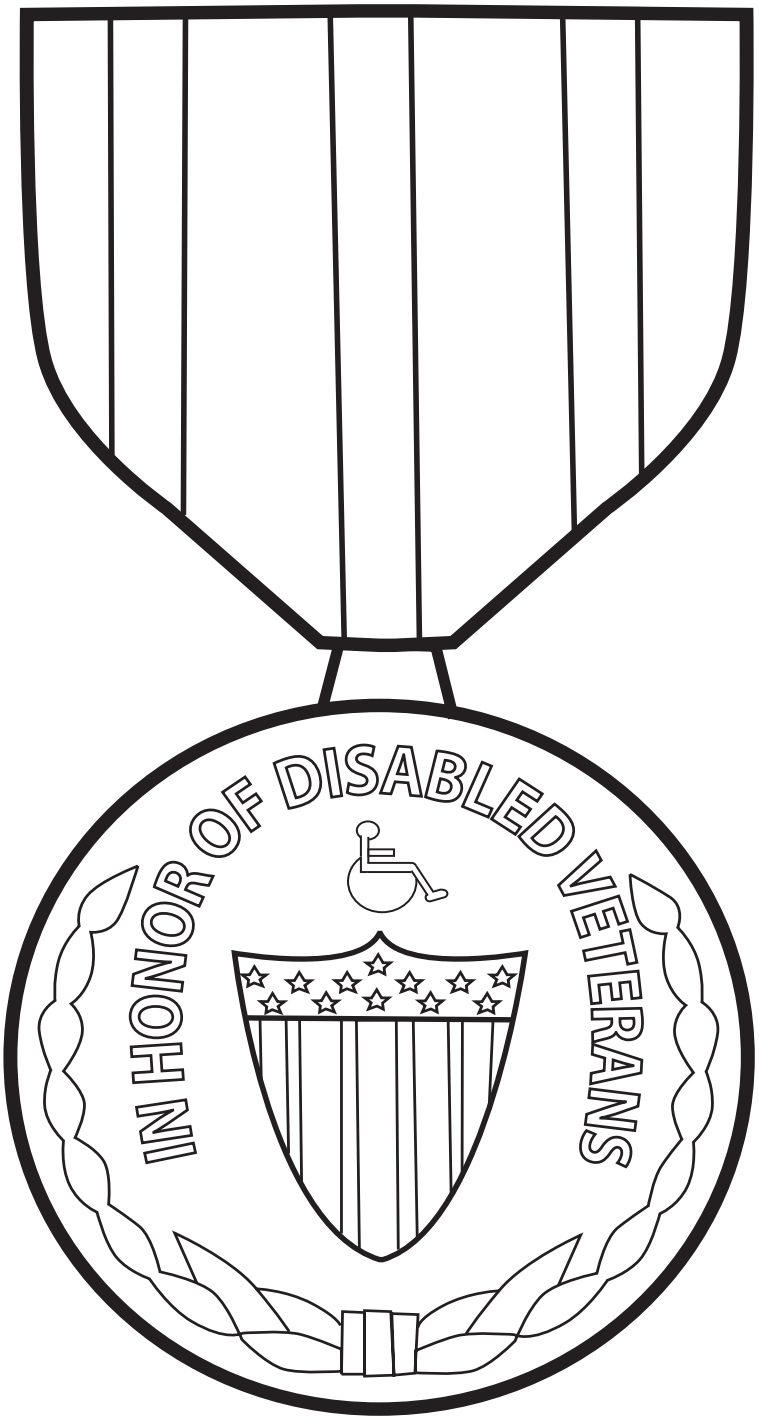
Golden Age Games

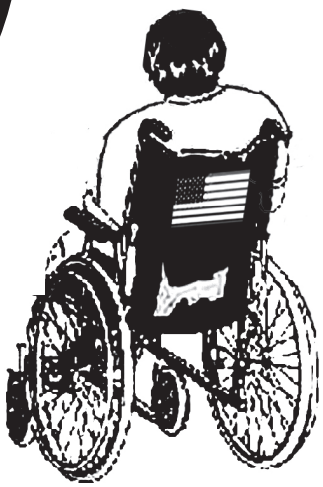
Creative Arts Festival

Coloring Book!



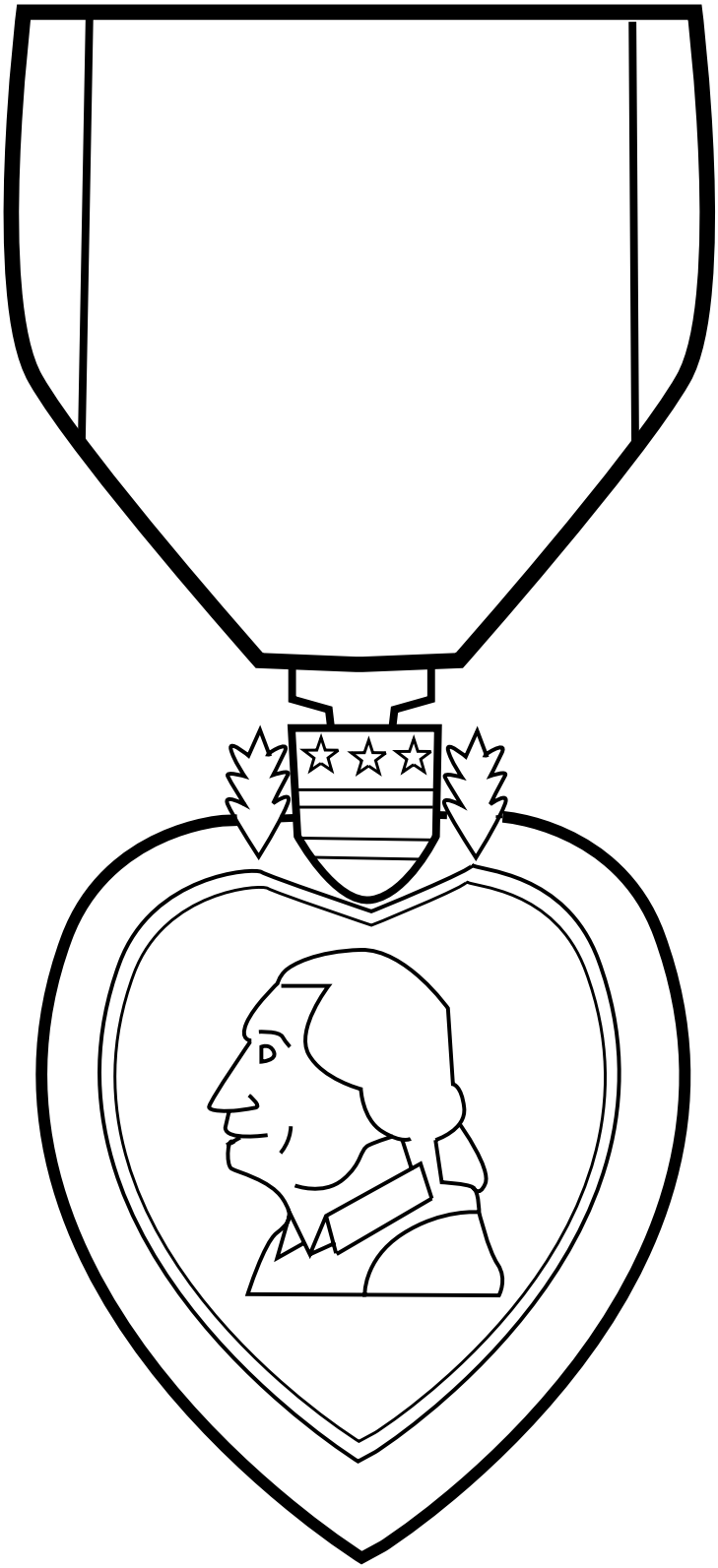
Color in your own medal and wear it in honor of
our disabled veterans





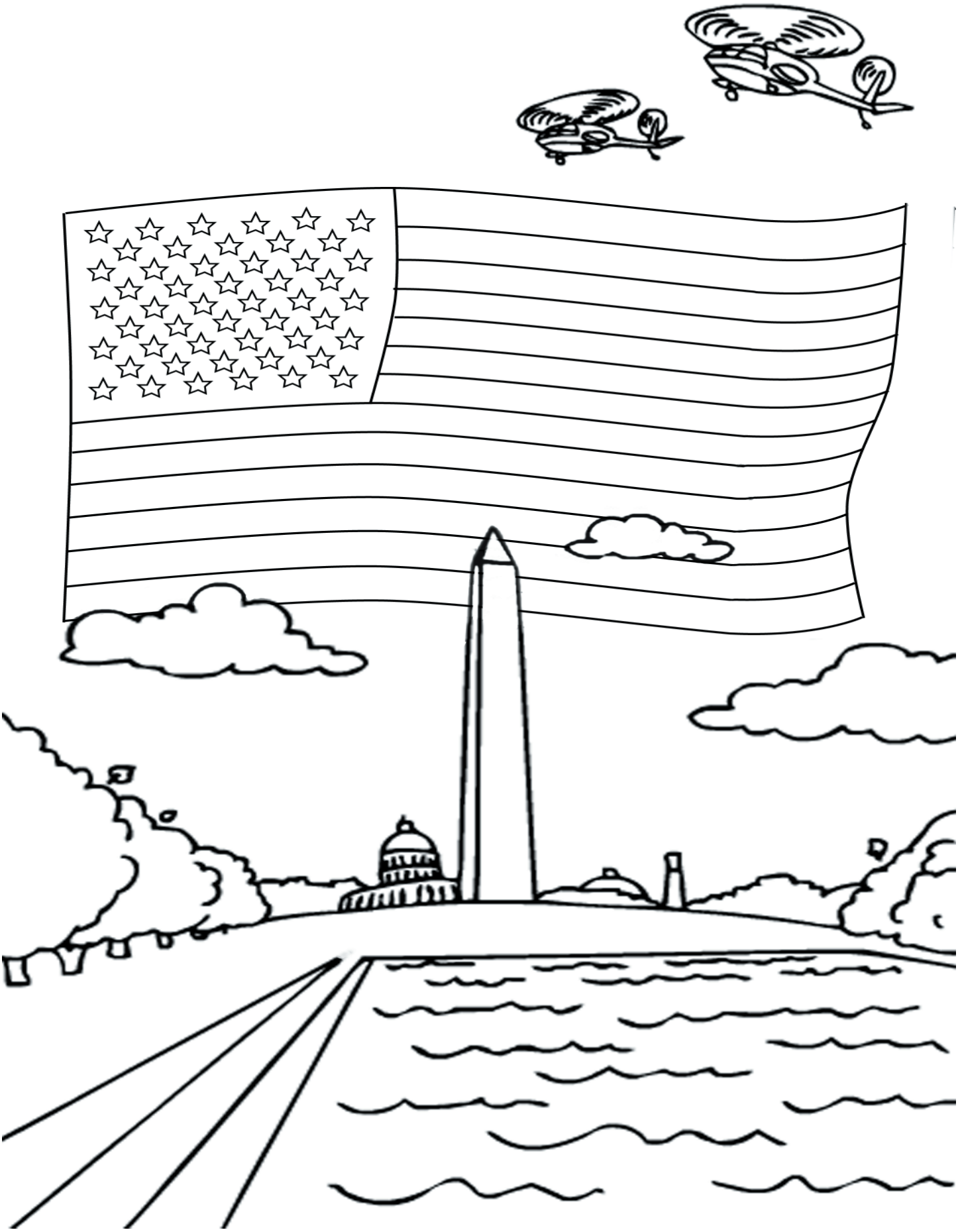
The Purple Heart is an American decoration–the oldest military decoration in the world in present use. It was the first American award made available to the common soldier. General George Washington initially created the medal when it was called the Badge of Military Merit.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy. It is presented to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die as a result of wounds received in combat. It is specifically a combat decoration.



Sited from the
National Order of the
Purple Heart Website.
www.Purpleheart.org

The Seal of the Department of Veterans Affairs

The Nike swoosh and McDonald's golden arches are both corporate America logos. A logo is a symbol that identifies a business. They are closely guarded and protected. They are worth millions of dollars. Symbols are just as important to government agencies. VA's seal was made in 1989 by David Gregory of Indianapolis. He focused on traditional American symbols.

The two flags in the eagle's talons symbolize America's history from the thirteen colonies to the present fifty states. A golden cord, symbolic of those Americans who have fallen in service to their country, binds the flags. The cord is also held by the eagle to perpetuate the memory of those veterans who have sacrificed for our Nation. The seal's colors are derived from the American flag and the natural colors of the earth, representing our Nation's commitment to its veterans.