

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY 2009



NOVEMBER 11, 2009

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, 10:30 AM





Robert Turtill, VA



VETERANS DAY, 2009

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

We have a sacred trust with those who wear the uniform of the United States of America. From the Minutemen who stood watch over Lexington and Concord to the service members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, American veterans deserve our deepest appreciation and respect. Our Nation's servicemen and women are our best and brightest, enlisting in times of peace and war, serving with honor under the most difficult circumstances, and making sacrifices that many of us cannot begin to imagine. Today, we reflect upon the invaluable contributions of our country's veterans and reaffirm our commitment to provide them and their families with the essential support they were promised and have earned.

Caring for our veterans is more than a way of thanking them for their service. It is an obligation to our fellow citizens who have risked their lives to defend our freedom. This selflessness binds our fates with theirs, and recognizing those who were willing to give their last full measure of devotion for us is a debt of honor for every American.

We also pay tribute to all who have worn the uniform and continue to serve their country as civilians. Many veterans act as coaches, teachers, and mentors in their communities, selflessly volunteering their time and expertise. They visit schools to tell our Nation's students of their experiences and help counsel our troops returning from the theater of war.

These men and women possess an unwavering belief in the idea of America: no matter where you come from, what you look like, or who your parents are, this is a place where anything is possible. Our veterans continue to stand up for those timeless American ideals of liberty, self-determination, and equal opportunity.

On Veterans Day, we honor the heroes we have lost, and we rededicate ourselves to the next generation of veterans by supporting our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen as they return home from duty. Our grateful Nation must keep our solemn promises to these brave men and women and their families. They have given their unwavering devotion to the American people, and we must keep our covenant with them.

With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our servicemen and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor our Nation's veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2009, as Veterans Day. I encourage all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I call on all Americans, including civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, and communities to support this day with commemorative expressions and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

October 13, 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

On behalf of the Veterans Day National Committee and the Paralyzed Veterans of America, this year's host organization, I welcome you to the 56th annual National Veterans Day observance at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a sacred trust to care for America's Veterans. From the soldiers who braved the cold at Valley Forge to the warriors who stormed the beaches at Normandy on D-Day to the brave men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan — our Veterans share a legacy of service that crosses generational lines and upholds the values upon which our Nation was founded: service to a cause greater than self.

For this, they deserve the respect and gratitude of our Nation. I am proud to lead the Department as we fulfill this sacred trust to them. I am also proud to serve President Barack Obama and fulfill his charter of transforming VA to meet the 21st Century needs of future generations of Veterans.

One way to honor our Veterans is to acknowledge their service on our behalf. Veterans Day gives us that opportunity to come together as a Nation to show our gratitude and respect for those who put service before self. From the tradition-rich ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to community parades and military exhibits at regional observances across this land, Americans will come together on November 11, with a simple message for Veterans: thank you for your service to our Nation.

As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, I offer my deepest gratitude and appreciation to America's Veterans and their families. Our tributes on this day honor you and the memory of those comrades, who gave their lives in service to our Nation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Eric K. Shinseki".

Eric K. Shinseki

National Veterans Day Observance

November 11, 2009

Musical Prelude	The United States Air Force Concert Band & Singing Sergeants
Presidential Wreath Ceremony	The Honorable Barack Obama President of the United States
Musical Selection.....	The United States Air Force Concert Band & Singing Sergeants
Procession of Colors	National Emblem March
Prayer for Veterans.....	Chaplain Keith Ethridge Director, VA Chaplain Service
Pledge of Allegiance	The Honorable L. Tammy Duckworth Assistant Secretary Department of Veterans Affairs
Introduction of Guests.....	Mr. Jim Benson Master of Ceremonies
Welcome Remarks	Mr. Gene A. Crayton National President Paralyzed Veterans of America
Introduction of the Guest Speaker	The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Day Address	The Honorable Barack Obama President of the United States
Retiring of the Colors.....	The United States Air Force Concert Band & Singing Sergeants

Courtesy transportation by Tourmobile

In respect to the flag of the United States, please take the small flags handed out before the ceremony with you or place them in containers on your way out of Arlington National Cemetery.

Veterans Day National Committee 2009

Honorary Chairman

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States

Chairman

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Vice Chairman

The Honorable L. Tammy Duckworth
Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs

Honorary Members

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
Chairman
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable Bob Filner
Chairman
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable Richard M. Burr
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

The Honorable Steve Buyer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Members

Mr. Gene A. Crayton
National President
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Mr. Stanley J. Trela, Jr.
National Commander
Polish Legion of American
Veterans, USA

Mr. John Rowan
National President
Vietnam Veterans of America

Mr. Clarence E. Hill
National Commander
The American Legion

Mr. Donald E. Mason
National Commander
Legion of Valor of the USA

Mr. William F. Mac Swain
National President
Korean War Veterans Association

Mr. Tommy Tradewell
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars of
The United States

Mr. James M. Sims
National Commander
Military Order of the Purple Heart
of the USA

Col. Philemon A. St. Amant II (Ret)
Commander-in-Chief
Military Order of the World Wars

Mr. Francisco F. Ivarra
National Commander
American G.I. Forum
of the United States

Mr. Duane Miskulin
National Commander
AMVETS

Mr. Arthur Herriford
President
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association

Mr. Charlie Flowers
National President
The Retired Enlisted Association

Mr. Edwin M. Robins
National Commander
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Dr. Roy W. Kekahuna
National President
Blinded Veterans Association

Mr. Gary C. Blackburn
National President
Fleet Reserve Association

Mr. Leo K. Thorness
National President
Congressional Medal of Honor Society
of the USA

Mr. Kenny H. Hanson
National Commander
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Mr. Steve Hancock
National Commander
Army and Navy Union, USA

Mr. James R. Laskey
National Commandant
Marine Corps League

Mr. Roberto Barrera
National Commander
Disabled American Veterans

Mr. Fred P. Schwally
National Commander
Catholic War Veterans, USA

Mr. H. Gene Overstreet
National Commander
Non Commissioned Officers
Association of the USA

Chaplain Michael L. McCoy
National President, Military Chaplains
Association of the USA

Mr. Norbert R. Ryan, Jr.
President, Military Officers
Association of America

Associate Members

Ms. Ruth Stonesifer
National President
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Mr. Joseph E. Sutter
National Chairman of the Board
Air Force Association

Ms. Colleen P. Rundell
President, National Association of
State Veterans Homes

Ms. Darlene Baker
Chair, Board of Directors
Bowlers to Veterans Link

Ms. Katherine Frazer
National President
Gold Star Wives of America

Mr. Waverly R. Holland
National Commander
Navy Seabee Veterans of America

Mr. Demetri Paris
President
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Mr. Terry Schow
President, National Association of
State Directors of Veterans Affairs

Mr. Peter J. Forbes
National Commander
Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc. &
The Veterans Coalition

Mr. Jeffrey Ledoux
International President
Air Force Sergeants Association

MG William M. Matz, Jr. (Ret)
President, National Association for
Uniformed Services

Ms. Lisa K. Szymanski
National President, Women's Army
Corps Veterans Association

Ms. Wendy Hoffman
National President
Blue Star Mothers of America

Mr. Mike Lynch
President, Help Hospitalized Veterans

Mr. Robert Nakamoto
President, Japanese American Veterans
Association

Mr. Steve Nardizzi
Executive Director
Wounded Warrior Project

Ms. Gail J. McGovern
President and CEO
American Red Cross



HERE RESTS IN
HONORED GLORY
AN AMERICAN
SOLDIER
KNOWN TO GOD



Paralyzed Veterans of America Veterans Day 2009 National Ceremony Host Organization

Paralyzed Veterans of America is the only congressionally chartered veterans service organization dedicated solely for the benefit and representation of individuals with spinal cord injury or disease.

The organization was founded by a band of spinal cord injured service members who returned home from World War II to a grateful nation, but also to a world with few solutions to the challenges they faced. They made a decision not just to live, but to live with dignity as contributors to society. They created an organization dedicated to veterans' service, medical research, and civil rights for people with disabilities.

And for 63 years, Paralyzed Veterans of America and our 34 chapters have been working to create an America where all veterans and people with disabilities, and their families, have everything they need to thrive. We represent more than 19,000 veterans in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Please visit www.pva.org for more information about the work we do.

