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D. Blair Camp
Mayor

mayor@murray.utah.gov

801-264-2600

Honoring Our Veterans

As November is upon us once again, many of us will be making plans for the Thanksgiving holiday and the subsequent holiday season. As we look forward to these events, I hope none of us will forget the other important November holiday on the eleventh, Veterans Day. Veterans Day is a day to remember and honor all the men and women who have served our country in any branch of the military in war or peace.

The date of November 11 has significance. On November 11, 1918, an armistice (agreement made by opposing sides to stop fighting) went into effect between the Allied nations and Germany on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. November 11, 1918 is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." In 1938 Congress made the 11th of November a legal holiday known as "Armistice Day" to honor veterans of World War I, and in 1954 the Act of 1938 was amended by changing the name to "Veterans Day," a day to honor all veterans of all wars.

On June 28, 1968, the Uniform Holiday Bill was signed into law moving four national holidays (Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day) to Monday in order to provide three-day weekends for federal employees. But according to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, "the first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11."

We have many Murray residents as well as employees who have served, or are currently serving in the military, both active and reserves. You all have family members, friends, or loved ones who have served. I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all veterans for your service to our country. Thank you. Thank you all.

During these recent tumultuous times and this divisive election season, it may be a little difficult for some to remember what a great nation we live in! Despite the flaws, the United States of America is the greatest nation in the world, and that is due largely to those who have sacrificed in defending our freedoms.



Former United States Representative John Linder once said, “Our soldiers have nobly fought to protect freedom since our country’s birth, and have fought to protect those that could not protect themselves, even in foreign lands when called upon.” While Veterans Day is one day a year set aside to remember and honor those who have “nobly fought to protect freedom,” I believe we must remember and honor them every day of the year. The veterans of the United States of America deserve our respect and gratitude.

On a personal note my father, Al Camp, a World War II veteran, passed away on November 11, 2011, the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the eleventh year. Thanks for your service, Dad!

This year as we are all bustling to prepare for the holiday season and our delicious Thanksgiving traditions, let’s not forget that other important holiday in November, and may we all pause to honor and express appreciation to those who have served us and our great nation.