

Veterans Day: Honoring All Who Served

Many Americans mistakenly believe that Veterans Day is the day America sets aside to honor American military personnel who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained from combat. That's not quite true. Memorial Day is the day set aside to honor America's war dead.

Veterans Day, on the other hand, honors ALL American veterans, both living and dead. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank LIVING veterans for dedicated and loyal service to their country. November 11 of each year is the day that we ensure veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in the lives to keep our country free.

Armistice Day
To commemorate the ending of the "Great War" (World War I), an "unknown soldier" was

buried in highest place of honor in both England and France (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These ceremonies took place on November 11th, celebrating the ending of World War I hostilities at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). This day became known internationally as "Armistice Day".

In 1921, the United States of America followed France and England by laying to rest the remains of a World War I American soldier -- his name "known but to God" -- on a Virginia hillside overlooking the city of Washington DC and the Potomac River. This site became known as the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier," and today is called the "Tomb of the Unknowns." Located in Arlington National Cemetery,

the tomb symbolizes dignity and reverence for the American veteran.

In America, November 11th officially became known as Armistice Day through an act of Congress in 1926. It wasn't until 12 years later, through a similar act that Armistice Day became a national holiday.

The entire World thought that World War I was the "War to end all wars." Had this been true, the holiday might still be called Armistice Day today. That dream was shattered in 1939 when World War II broke out in Europe. More than 400,000 American service members died during that horrific war.

Veterans Day
In 1947, Raymond Weeks, of Birmingham Ala., organized a "Veterans Day" parade on November 11th to honor all of

America's veterans for their loyal and dedicated service. Shortly thereafter, Congressman Edward H. Rees (Kansas) introduced legislation to change the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day in order to honor all veterans who have served the United States in all wars.

In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day, and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace. He issued a Presidential Order directing the head of the Veterans Administration (now called the Department of Veterans Affairs), to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day.

Congress passed legislation in 1968 to move Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. However as it became apparent that November 11th was historically significant to many Americans, in 1978, Congress reversed itself and returned the holiday to its traditional date.

Veterans Day National Ceremony

At exactly 11 a.m., each November 11th, a color guard, made up of members from each of the military branches, renders honors to America's war dead during a heart-moving ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds Taps. The balance of the ceremony, in-

cluding a "Parade of Flags" by numerous veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

In addition to planning and coordinating the National Veterans Day Ceremony, the Veterans Day National Committee supports a number of Veterans Day Regional Sites. These sites conduct Veterans Day celebrations that provide excellent examples for other communities to follow.

Veterans Day Observance

Veterans Day is always observed on November 11, regardless of the day of the week on which it falls. The Veterans Day National Ceremony is always held on Veterans Day itself, even if the holiday falls on a Saturday

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In Good Hands

Leo Copeland

America's Nuclear Arsenal is in the capable hands of the United States Air Force Missiliers of which Seminole product Bill Terry is a part.

Bill is the son of Brent and Fay Terry and 2005 graduate of Seminole High School and a 2009 graduate of the Air Force Academy. He is stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base near Great Falls, Montana which is responsible for 15 Nuclear launch facilities and 150 silos spread over 13,800 square miles. The launch control rooms are buried six stories (about 65 feet) under ground for security reasons. Bill goes on alert, (is deployed in the silo) for 24 hours stints about two or three days a week, about every four days.

The control base is hard wired to 50 silos each about seven miles away, each holds 60 foot tall minute man III Intercontinental Ballistics Missiles (ICBM) each capable of three warheads.

Bill has been a teacher for training sessions for Missilier. He has now achieved the rank of Captain in May of this year.

He also received an Outstanding Achievement Medal from the Department of the Air Force. The award reads:

"This is to certify that the Air Force Achievement Medal has been awarded to First Lieutenant Billy W. Terry for Outstanding Achievement 23 June to 27 July 2011."

The accomplishments listed are as follows: "First Lieutenant Billy W. Terry distinguished himself by outstanding achievement as Force Development Evaluation Deputy Missile Combat Crew Commander, 490th Missile Squadron, 341st Operations Group, 341st Missile Wing, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. During this period, Lieutenant Terry's technical expertise was vital to the operation, maintenance and execution of a \$24 million Force Development Test Launch control center start up and range check confirmed

weapon system operation capability and ultimately culminated in a successful operational test. Additionally, his efforts provided critical accuracy and reliability data to Air Force Global Strike Command, the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center, the National Nuclear Security Administration, United States Strategic Command and the Missile Defense Agency. The distinctive accomplishments of Lieutenant Terry reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force".

In a March issue of Popular Mechanics, in an article entitled "Down in the Hole," writer Joe Pappalardo, wrote about the workings of a Nuclear Missile Silo at Malmstrom AFB where Bill Terry is Stationed. Some of the material in this article is drawn from Pappalardo's article.

"ICBMs promise the fastest response to an enemy attack -- or can launch quickly enough to prevent one." Said Pappalardo. "Their Work at the missile base is so crucial that any problem at the silo is a national security event.

Bill Terry and those he works with are literally protecting our country from enemy attack.

Terry is currently working on his masters degree, online from Texas A & M University in Educational Leadership. He is hoping to get to teach at the Air Force Academy.

Bill and his wife Justine have a thirteen month old daughter named Lyla. They live in Great Falls about an hour and a half drive from his silo. He hopes someday to get to come back to Texas.



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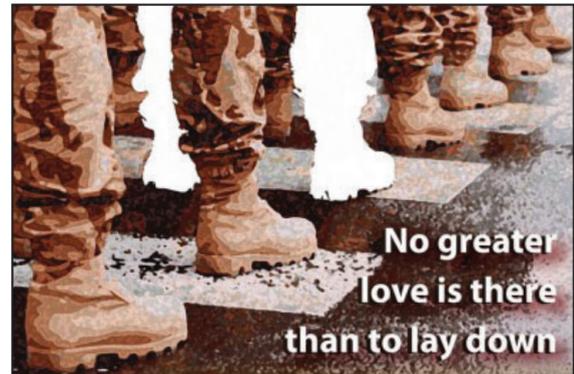
Sullivan:

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at Ferris; and Glen Moore who lives at Cottondale but gets his mail at Springtown.

An interesting fact came to light during the discussion. Glen's mother was only 13-years-old when she married his dad. She was just 15 when Glen was born.

His dad ran the first Taxi in Seminole. Once he saw one of the leading citizens on the street who was intoxicated. Sullivan asked the man if he could help him and he said, "Yes, take me anywhere but home." So he took him to the police station. The next day when the fellow had sobered up, he told Sullivan, "The next time I tell you to take me somewhere, don't take me to the police station!"

Glen's military memorabilia can be seen at the Gaines County Museum, Seminole branch. His uniform, rifle, mess kit, medals, discharge papers and records are all on display.



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A SOLDIER'S SALVATION

by S/Sgt. Daryl Scott Sellers

A young man stood alone there. First he cursed, and then he cried.

With his friends he'd fought the battle, and like his faith, his friends had died.

He tried to in the gun to love of to kill Go-evil rises, is not one they w h e n p o e m day for freedom and with



blame the Lord for what had taken place. Then he heard distance a soldier sing, "Amazing Grace!" He dropped his the ground, and his eyes looked to the sky. He felt the the One who for our sins was sent to die. God sent David liath with just his faith and his sling, and to this day when into battle it's us He'll bring. To war is not to hate, as to love to lust. It's not the men with whom we battle, but the evil trust. Hate, and spite, and war, one day it all will end. And His work is done, we'll spend forever with our Friend. This is dedicated to our Father up above. I thank Him every His mercy and His love. It is also for the men who for our went and fought. They loved their God and their country; their lives our freedom bought.

South Plains IMPLEMENT

Seminole Location
204 N. Hwy. 385
(432) 758-1110



Gaines County Abstract

207 S. Main

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