

Veterans Day

Fairfax County Public Schools

Goal:

To provide information and suggested resources and activities to schools so they may recognize the contribution of veterans to our country and the role of the military in American democracy.

Background:

On March 8, 2007, the General Assembly of Virginia approved *an Act to make information available for school divisions regarding the commemoration of Veterans Day*. This act requires the Department of Education to make information available regarding the commemoration of Veterans Day in public schools.

109th Congress 2nd Session passed a resolution designating the week of November 5-11, 2006, as “National Veterans Awareness Week”. Senate Resolution 507 designated the week that included November 11 as “National Veterans Awareness Week” to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country. This resolution was based on the proclamation issued by President George W. Bush on November 2, 2005, recognizing National Veterans Awareness Week and encouraging the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate educational activities.

As we recognize our veterans, we are reminded that the defense of our nation comes with loss and sacrifice. As stated on the FCPS “Calendar of Religious and Cultural Observances” available on the FCPS website: *teachers are directed by the School Board to engage their students in activities to honor veterans and recognize the role of the military in American democracy*. Schools are urged to recognize the sacrifice of our veterans and honor them for their personal courage, valor, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Instructional Services Department, along with the Office of Community Relations, will assume responsibility for yearly reminders and other communications regarding this. Information will be made available to teachers, administrators and Clusters.

Suggested Resources and Activities:

- Conduct a Veterans Day Ceremony including posting of the colors, veteran speakers, a moment of silence, and the playing of taps
- Flag-Raising ceremony
- Special musical programs
- Poster Contest
- School newspaper articles
- Library highlight of books about veterans and Veterans Day

- Speakers from veterans organizations
- Writing letters of thanks to veterans

Suggested Resources and Activities Continued:

- News show program
- Morning announcements
- “Adopt a veteran”
- Learn about veterans in history

A. The following resources for teachers and students can be downloaded from the **Official Veterans Day Website** <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/> and are highly recommended.

Veterans Day School Kit (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/schoolkit.asp>)

The Veterans Day School Kit contains the following sections:

Teacher Resources (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/docs/06teachers.pdf>)

This section contains a letter from President George W. Bush along with a letter to principals from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs explaining how important Veterans Day is to all people. Additionally, this section contains ideas and suggestions for school-wide assemblies to promote and guide all children in honoring veterans. Finally, this section has a Classroom Activity Guide which includes ideas for various activities to engage students in learning and exploring the rich history of Veterans Day in the classroom.

Student Resources (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/docs/06-47.pdf>)

Handouts for Students Grade 8 - 12:

- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
- Origins of Veterans Day
- Lessons of Liberty
- Department of Veterans Affairs Seal
- Scholarships
- Respecting the Flag
- America’s Wars

Kid’s Packet (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/docs/06-47.pdf>)

A packet perfect for the elementary grades guided by Tags the Dog, including a readers' theater short play, a maze, word scramble, respecting the flag rules and a coloring book suitable for primary students

The Veteran's Day (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>)

Poster Gallery (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.asp>)

B. VA Kids Teacher (<http://www.va.gov/kids/teachers/multicontent.asp?intPageID=4>)

Veteran's Affairs website for Kids - <http://www.va.gov/kids/>

For K-5 (<http://www.va.gov/kids/k-5/index.asp>)

For 6-12 (<http://www.va.gov/kids/6-12/index.asp>)

C. Lessons of Liberty (<http://www1.va.gov/opa/iga/liberty/index.asp>)

The "Lessons of Liberty" initiative is an opportunity for American students to learn more about

D. Veteran's History Project (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/sights.html>)

See and Hear Veteran's Stories (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/sights.html>)

A collection of twentieth-century interviews and documentary materials. The stories include accounts of wartime service from men and women, civilian and military, representing many ranks, jobs, branches of service, and theaters of war. These inspiring, and sometimes sad stories are told in their own words through letters, diaries, and oral history interviews.

Experiencing War: Stories from the Veteran's History Project (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/voicesofwar/>)

A companion web site to the new book *Voices of War, Stories of Service from the Home Front and the Front Lines*. *Voices of War* expresses war in the words of the men and women who experienced it, through their oral history interviews, memoirs, diaries, and correspondence.

Women of War (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/>)

A collection of stories from women, including nurses, a code breaker, a welder, and a flight surgeon, plus two women who rose through the ranks to become a general and commander of a U.S. Navy ship.

E. The Library of Congress (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/ihas/html/patriotic/patriotic-home.html>)

Patriotic Melodies from the Library of Congress: Audio and text are available from a number of historical songs

F. Arlington National Cemetery (http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org/photo_gallery/index.html)

Photo Gallery from Arlington National Cemetery

G. Women for Military Forces of America Memorial (<http://www.womensmemorial.org/index.html>)

Educational Resources (<http://www.womensmemorial.org/Education/educ.html>)

A kit for teachers (<http://www.womensmemorial.org/Education/just4teachers.html>)

An interactive map linked to stories of women veterans (<http://www.womensmemorial.org/Membership/RegStateMap.html>)

H. Department of Defense (<http://www.defenselink.mil/>)

I. US Department of Education (<http://www.ed.gov/free/past/2005/110.html>)

J. Wars (http://www.free.ed.gov/subjects.cfm?subject_id=151)

Teaching and learning resources from federal agencies related to wars in US History.

K. Additional links to related pages can be found at <http://www.noblenet.org/year/veterans.html>

Please note: All images, audio, or movies should be reviewed by a teacher before sharing with students.

Books:

Cook, Martin L., *The Moral Warrior: Ethics and Service in the U.S. Military*, State University of New York Press, 2004.

Cotton, Jacqueline S., *Veterans Day* (for younger readers), Children's Press, 2002.

Landau, Elaine, *Veterans Day: Remembering Our War Heroes*, Enslow Publishers, 2002.

Clark, Christopher, et al. *Without Regard to Race: The Integration of the U.S. Military*, Franklin Watts, 1995.

Wiener, Tom, *Voices of War: Stories of Service from the Home Front and the Front Lines*, National Geographic, 2004.

Raven, Margot Theis, *America's White Table*, Sleeping Bear Press, 2005.

The White Table is set in many mess halls as a symbol for and remembrance to service members fallen, missing, or held captive in the line of duty. Solitary and solemn, it is the table where no one will ever sit. As a special gift to her Uncle John, Katie and her sisters are asked to help set the white table for dinner. As their mother explains the significance of each item placed on the table Katie comes to understand and appreciate the depth of sacrifice that her uncle, and each member of the Armed Forces and their families, may be called to give.