



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20318-9999

## VETERANS DAY 2006

Veterans Day is an opportunity for all Americans to honor the service of the men and women of the Armed Forces, past and present. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed 11 November as Armistice Day to signify the end of World War I. He commemorated the event by saying, "The reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory." Armistice Day evolved into Veterans Day after World War II, but the original intent resounds today.

Today, as in the past, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen are fully committed to defending this great Nation and our very way of life. We have troops deployed throughout the world to combat terrorism and further peace and stability. Veterans Day is an opportunity to recognize the hard working men and women serving in our military, as well as honor those heroes who have served throughout the ages in the defense of freedom.

On behalf of the Joint Chiefs, I join our fellow Americans in deepest gratitude to those who serve and those who have served. To all Veterans, and to your families, thank you for your courage and your commitment.

PETER PACE  
General, United States Marine Corps  
Chairman  
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff