

2021 Veterans Day National Patriotic Instruction

Hello Brothers,

I write again in the hopes of putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) to properly put to words the importance of Veterans Day. 104 years ago, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 the Armistice ending World War I, the War to End All Wars, the Great War, took effect. It was not until 1926 that Congress passed a resolution stating that 11 November would be an annual observance known as "Armistice Day," with it becoming a National holiday in 1938. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name to Veterans Day; a little-known fact for those of us that were not alive in the 70's. Veterans Day was celebrated on the 4th Monday in October from 1971-1974 with President Gerald Ford returning Veterans Day to November 11th in 1975. 11 November is now set aside for us to thank, honor, and remember those brave men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces during any time or in any place.

Now that we have outlined the brief history of the day, and hopefully put its importance into words, we turn our eyes towards those who have signed the blank check to our country to give anything, including their lives to defend it, and we thank them. In today's day and age, it is easy to forget why it is so important to recognize that people are willing to lay down their lives to defend our country. Sometimes it is because we get caught up in our day to day lives and do not realize how good we have it. Other times it is because we get caught up in current events and the negativity that is usually published. That is because unfortunately the feel-good stories do not drive ratings for media companies. Well, the fact that we have a media that can publish these heartwarming stories at times, uncensored and freely under the Constitution, and that we have things so good here, that most times in our day to day lives we do not even think about the freedoms the Constitution give us. Why don't we think of these freedoms? Because they are part of our everyday lives and we don't even realize it most times, we have become so used to our Rights being around that sometimes we take them for granted. We still, to this day have these rights, because of these brave souls and is exactly why we should thank these men and women. If it weren't for them, we would not have these Rights.

On a personal note, Veterans Day is a day of family reflection. My grandfather, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Thomas V. Frail Jr, USA (Ret) was a man many admired, myself included. My father, Cpl. Bruce D. Frail USMC (Ret), who is one of my closest friends; a confidant who has taught me what it means to not only be a man, but to be a father. Who taught me that no matter how tired or frustrated, or how much pain you may be in, you can always give more and you can always find a way to improve yourself. My wife, SSgt. Robyn E. Vespia-Frail, USA, who is my best friend, who day-in-day-out deals with my crazy antics and helps me raise two amazing demons... I mean sons. These 3 are just 3 of the millions who have worn the Nation's uniform, and would in a heartbeat leave those things that they hold dear to answer the bugles' call. For my Grandfather, it was my Nana, Pauline, Aunt Michelle, Aunt Karen and father to go to Vietnam. For my father it was his sisters, and niece Paula to go to Lebanon. For my wife it is time with our sons Chace, 7, and Colin, 5, as she currently serves on her 2nd deployment. All of them have sacrificed time with their families and friends to ensure that this country, and all of those in it, are safe.

We all know someone who has served or is currently stationed outside the US. Someone that has come home from deployment that was wounded in action, or who suffers from the unseen wounds of war. We all know those who after graduation from high school or college we lost touch with only to find out later that they joined the armed forces. These men and women volunteered to serve our Nation, they did it not for the fame or the glory, but to give back to something that is greater than themselves and to ensure that both their loved ones, and complete strangers, can enjoy the same freedoms that our ancestors enjoyed. That is why they deserve our thanks and praise this 11th of November.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC
National Patriotic Instructor