

# Sons of Union Veterans of The Civil War

**Office of the Commander-in-Chief**

**Donald D. Palmer Jr., Commander-in-Chief**

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**General Order #7**

**SERIES 2011-2012**

**11 November 2011**

1. Today, November 11, marks Veterans Day....a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.
2. In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over. November 11, 1919 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States, to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during World War I in order to ensure a lasting peace. On Armistice Day, soldiers who survived the war marched in a parade through their home towns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and held ceremonies of thanks for the peace they had won.
3. Congress passed legislation to make Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, 20 years after the war ended. But Americans realized that the First World War would not be the last. World War II began the following year and nations great and small again participated in a bloody struggle. After the Second World War, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11.
4. In 1953 townspeople in Emporia, Kansas called the holiday Veterans' Day in gratitude to the veterans in their town. Soon after, Congress passed a bill introduced by Kansas congressman Ed Rees renaming the federal holiday to Veterans' Day. President Eisenhower signed it into law on May 26, 1954. In 1971, President Nixon declared it a federal holiday to be observed on the fourth Monday in October in conjunction with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. In 1978, it was moved back to the original date of November 11.
5. I urge all Brothers in our Order to proudly display the flag of the United States and take time on this day to reflect on the sacrifices made by America's veterans.
6. To our Brothers who also wore a uniform of the United States Armed Forces, you have my heartfelt thanks for your service and dedication in defending our great Nation.

Ordered this 11th Day of November, 2011.

Donald D. Palmer Jr.  
Commander-In-Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest:

Eugene Mortorff  
Secretary,  
National Order, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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