



## VA AOH VET Affairs Update

NOV 2020

Officers, Presidents, Brothers,

Get with me if you did not receive the Bugle and/or the monthly Vet emails and I will ensure you or your rep is on my distro list. The latest Bugle for NOV is out, and contains more stories and news to be shared for your division veterans.

**USMC Birthday** - Dating back to the Revolutionary War in October of 1775., the Continental Congress developed an official plan to use Marines to oversee a mission to intercept ammunition shipments from Britain. This, and a November resolution to create an official standing Marine Corps force, were key in building what eventually became the modern U.S. Marine Corps. Thus 10 November, 1775, the day the Continental Marines were created serves as the official Marine Corps birthday! OOH-RAH! Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/marine-corps-birthday/#ixzz6dDCh5dy1>

**Veteran Rosters** – Please send in your veteran rosters if you have not yet this year; I've asked for them numerous times! Each division should have a roster of veterans so that we can track the numbers at the state level.

**Veteran Pin** – This is a great way to acknowledge and display service; continue to purchase and distribute. Many photos in the Hibernian Digest also capture the pin and help to raise morale and recognition.

**Sweats for Vets** – Over the past 16 years, the local Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians have collected and distributed thousands of new sweat outfits to our veterans in residence (or local patients) at the Veterans Medical facility in Martinsburg, WVA. This year's program to secure 800 new sweat outfits is now underway for distribution in early January 2021. Attached is a list of items that they are looking for.

**Military/Veteran Events in VA** – if your division has a veteran related event, please forward me the information. I have an email distro list and can send it out for max participation. This enables more to join, but also increases networking and friendships among AOH brothers. I can also post the information to our state website.

**Honor Flights** – What a great way to give back to World War II and terminally ill veterans. The organization brings veterans to Washington D.C. for free so that they can visit memorials built in their honor. You can volunteer to escort at [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org).

**History of Veteran's Day** – In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World

War I. Just over 116,000 Americans died in World War I, defending the lives and freedom of our European allies. The following year, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration to honor the soldiers who fought in that war. The day was originally known as Armistice Day. November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, the holiday became known as Veterans Day. It is estimated that more than 1 million Americans have died in all U.S. wars.

**Veteran's Day Ceremonies in Alexandria** – Each year, the Friends of Rocky Versace put on a great Veteran's Day Ceremony to honor Rocky Versace, a local hero from Vietnam. CPT Versace was a US Military Academy graduate who died in captivity during Vietnam, and earned the Congressional Medal of Honor. A statue in his honor was erected by USMA classmates in Delray. The ceremony is on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm, at Quinn Hall (Blessed Sacrament School; 1427 West Braddock Rd., City of Alexandria, 22302, across from Everly-Wheatley funeral home). There is ample parking in the parking lot behind school. Please wear a face mask if you plan to attend.

There will also be a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution in Alexandria as well. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, this ceremony honors an unidentified Soldier of the American Revolutionary War, whose remains were unearthed in 1826 in Alexandria, VA. The memorial is in the churchyard Burial Ground of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, that dates back to 1772. It is located at 323 South Fairfax Street. See Buck Coates or Larry Clark for more information on times ([buck.coates@comcast.net](mailto:buck.coates@comcast.net), [hlclark63@gmail.com](mailto:hlclark63@gmail.com)).

**Other Veteran's Day Events** – See below link for other Veteran's Day events and discounts offered for military veterans.

[https://www.honor.org/category/events/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAy579BRCPARIsAB6QoIaFnApAHXP4pP0IDvBX-NuN8Tb6CcLNyR-cGi0t\\_RHqmeirtM1quBlaAhK2EALw\\_wcB](https://www.honor.org/category/events/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAy579BRCPARIsAB6QoIaFnApAHXP4pP0IDvBX-NuN8Tb6CcLNyR-cGi0t_RHqmeirtM1quBlaAhK2EALw_wcB)

<https://militarybenefits.info/veterans-day/>

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/80347/veterans-day-2020-discounts/>

V/R,

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