



We have a busy few months ahead of us filled with lots to celebrate and be thankful for. I hope you find one of these ideas to your liking and get busy planning a party, education board or flyer to hand out at nursing homes, VA centers, schools, etc. Share the knowledge and you just might peak the interest of someone older or younger with this information. They say, Sharing is Caring!

### **Upcoming Patriotic and Lesser-Known Patriotic Days:**

**November-Veterans and Military Family Month, Warrior Care Month, Veterans Small Business week (November 11<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>)** approximately 2.5 million veteran-owned businesses in the US generate over \$1 trillion annually.

**First Tuesday after the first Monday of November is Election Day.** The federal government, as well as state and municipal entities, observes this day for the election of public officials. Voters elect federal officials on even-numbered years; presidential elections are held every four years but congressional elections come every two years. States and municipalities may hold elections on Election Day or during some other months of the year, depending on their state or local government rules.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> World Freedom Day** U.S. observance to note 1989's falling of the Berlin Wall in Germany.

**November 10<sup>th</sup> Marine Corp Birthday** Marine Corp was established in 1775.

**November 11<sup>th</sup> Armistice Day/Veterans Day** Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans. Originally called Armistice Day, it officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action. If World War I had truly been "the war to end all wars," November 11 might be still called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (The first Veterans Day parade took place in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.) A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

**November 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving** This day celebrates the harvest and other blessings of the past year. It was first recognized in 1621 with a three day feast between the Wampanoag people and the

English Colonists (pilgrims) in Plymouth, MA. President Abraham Lincoln signed into proclamation in 1863 to establish this as a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November. Fun fact: in 1789, President Washington issued a proclamation this day was to be called a "Day of Publick Thanksgiving".

**Fourth Friday of November is Native American Heritage Day**, set up to pay tribute to Native American contributions to the United States. The law became official in October of 2008.

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Day** On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U.S. military forces in Hawaii. In a devastating defeat, the United States suffered 2,403 casualties and destruction or damage to nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships and more than 300 airplanes. Japanese losses were less than 100 personnel, 29 planes, and five midget submarines. The day after the attack, before a joint session of Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan. President Roosevelt's message conveyed the national outrage over the Pearl Harbor attack by pronouncing December 7, 1941 "a date which will live in infamy." FDR was furious at Japan's confidence in their "inevitable triumph" of the United States. On December 8, 1941, the United States declared war against Japan; on December 11, Germany and Italy declared war against the United States. Today, the USS Arizona Memorial on the island of Oahu honors the lives lost on the day of the attack. Visitors to the memorial reach it via boats from the naval base at Pearl Harbor. Although December 7 is known as Pearl Harbor Day, it is not considered a federal holiday in the United States.

**December 13<sup>th</sup> National Guard Birthday** The National Guard recognizes Dec. 13, 1636, as its official birthday. On this day, the militia of what was then the Massachusetts Bay Colony was organized into three permanent regiments. The descendants of those regiments are today known as the 101st Engineer Battalion, the 101st Field Artillery Regiment, the 181st Infantry Regiment and the 182nd Infantry Regiment of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, and are recognized as the oldest units in the U.S. military, according to a National Guard fact sheet. How can the National Guard be older than the Army — or indeed the U.S. itself? The Militia Act of May 8, 1792, provided for the organization of state militia and allowed the U.S. president to take command of these militias in times of invasion or insurrection. But the act also allowed militias organized before the enactment to retain their "customary privileges," according to the National Guard — hence, the National Guard officially began with the organization of Massachusetts' militia. These state militias officially became the modern National Guard with the passage of the Militia Act of 1903, which codified circumstances under which the Guard could be federalized.

**December 15<sup>th</sup> Bill of Rights Day** On December 15, 1791, the first amendments to the Constitution were ratified. Known as the Bill of Rights, these 10 amendments protect the most fundamental rights of Americans, like freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to protest, and the guarantee of equal protection under the law. Other amendments include the right to bear arms, and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures, among others.

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Pan American Aviation Day** The date commemorates the first successful flight of a mechanically propelled heavier-than-air craft, accomplished on December 17, 1903, by the Wright brothers near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

**December 20th Space Force Birthday** The U.S. Space Force was established Dec. 20, 2019 when the National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law (with bi-partisan support), creating the first new branch of the armed services in 73 years. The establishment of the USSF resulted from widespread recognition that Space was a national security imperative. When combined with the growing threat posed by near-peer competitors in space, it became clear there was a need for a military service focused solely on pursuing superiority in the space domain.

**December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day** There is so much on this topic I could write a book or two. I hope you spend some time researching this topic and share with others in emails, texts and social media about your findings.

**December 26<sup>th</sup> The Day after Christmas Day** The Day after Christmas is a public holiday in some states, including Kansas, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. Government offices, educational institutions and many businesses are usually closed in these states. December 26 follows from Christmas Day, which is when most Christians in the U.S. celebrate the birth of Jesus, whom they believe is the son of God. Christmas is often combined with customs from pre-Christian winter celebrations. The Bible does not give a precise date for the birth of Jesus. It is also unclear when December 25 became associated with the birth of Jesus, although it may have been around two hundred years after his birth.

**December 31<sup>st</sup> New Years Eve** In the Gregorian calendar, **New Year's Eve**, also known as **Old Year's Day**, is the evening or the entire day of the last day of the year, 31 December. In many countries, New Year's Eve is celebrated with dancing, eating, drinking, and watching or lighting fireworks. Some Christians attend a watch night service. The celebrations generally go on past midnight into New Year's Day, 1 January.

The year is almost gone so let's make sure we get out and educate everyone of our great holidays and celebrations of our service members. We have a lot to be thankful for this year and I hope everyone has a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

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