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Veterans Day Honors Military Service

Our living veterans are the best educational resource of all.

Fort Logan Ceremony

More than 70,000 veterans and their family members have been laid to rest at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Location

Fort Logan Cemetery 3698 S. Sheridan Blvd. Denver, Colorado 80235 Phone: 303-761-0117

- <u>Cemetery records</u>
- <u>Cemetery history</u>



NOVEMBER 10, 2004 -- Thursday, November 11 is the official city holiday observance for Veterans Day. Most city offices will be closed, and city services will be following holiday schedules. This includes trash and recycling collection, which will be delayed one day

following the holiday closure. Parking at Denver meters will be free on Thursday.

National commemoration of military service includes two important holidays, although the purposes of Veterans Day and Memorial Day are often confused. Memorial Day was established as a day of remembrance for military personnel who died in service or battle, whereas Veterans Day is about honoring all men and women, living and deceased, who served in the military during times of war and peace.

Locally, Veterans Day ceremonies will be taking place at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver and at the Fort Lyon National Cemetery. Nationally, ceremonies take place at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Virginia's Arlington National Cemetery, and parades and ceremonies take place in many communities. Denver's Veterans Day parade was held last Saturday, November 6.

In addition to such tributes, many groups are working to preserve history, and to educate children and adults about the events that our veterans have experienced.

One such project is the Veterans History Project, which collects the living history of veterans through interviews, and preserves documents, letters, diaries, photographs, artifacts and other materials. The project engages veterans from World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars to preserve their stories for future generations. They are also making the collected materials available to the public through the Library of Congress as part of the National Digital Library. All Americans are encouraged to participate in the project, and guidelines for gathering and submitting materials are available online at <u>http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets</u>.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are an estimated 19 million war veterans, 24.9 million living military veterans, and over 42 million have served in the military overall since the American Revolution.

We are, as a nation, rapidly losing the opportunity to explore this living history. Our nation's veterans are aging, and nearly 40 percent of all veterans are age 65 or older. Most World War II and Korean War veterans are now in their 70s and 80s. Sadly, fewer than 200 living World War I veterans are still alive today, out of a total of 4.7 million service members from that era.

Veterans Day is a time to reflect, to honor, to learn, and to share. Our living veterans are the best educational resource of all. On Veterans Day, spend some time listening to their stories, see their personal photos and souvenirs, and let them know that their service and contributions were valued. As we face an exponential loss of our nation's veterans, we will not have the honor to learn about their experiences much longer.

Written by Content Developer <u>Betsy Kimak</u>, Office of Television and Internet Services.

-- Last updated on November 10, 2004

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