



# VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL  
WHO SERVED

NOVEMBER 11, 2008  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY  
10:30 A.M.







THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

## VETERANS DAY, 2008

*By The President of The United States of America*

### A Proclamation

On Veterans Day, we pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of the men and women who in defense of our freedom have bravely worn the uniform of the United States.

From the fields and forests of war-torn Europe to the jungles of Southeast Asia, from the deserts of Iraq to the mountains of Afghanistan, brave patriots have protected our Nation's ideals, rescued millions from tyranny, and helped spread freedom around the globe. America's veterans answered the call when asked to protect our Nation from some of the most brutal and ruthless tyrants, terrorists, and militaries the world has ever known. They stood tall in the face of grave danger and enabled our Nation to become the greatest force for freedom in human history. Members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard have answered a high calling to serve and have helped secure America at every turn.

Our country is forever indebted to our veterans for their quiet courage and exemplary service. We also remember and honor those who laid down their lives in freedom's defense. These brave men and women made the ultimate sacrifice for our benefit. On Veterans Day, we remember these heroes for their valor, their loyalty, and their dedication. Their selfless sacrifices continue to inspire us today as we work to advance peace and extend freedom around the world.

With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service members have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor America's veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2008, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 9 through November 15, 2008, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of our veterans through ceremonies and prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to support and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with commemorative expressions and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

October 10, 2008

**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

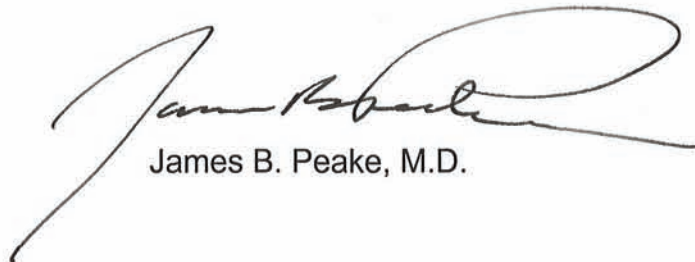
Ninety years ago today, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns of World War I fell silent. Today, we honor the last remaining American veteran of that war, and all of the brave men and women who have taken up arms to defend the truths set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

Time and again, ordinary citizens have served our Nation in extraordinary ways so that all Americans can pursue the happiness our Founding Fathers envisioned. By their service, they have kept America strong, and they have protected our way of life for more than two centuries. At this moment, men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are serving around the world.

We owe our veterans a tremendous debt of gratitude. As Americans, it is our responsibility to honor them for their sacrifices, not just on Veterans Day, but every day of the year. That is why I am proud to be a part of the Department of Veterans Affairs as we fulfill our debt of gratitude to America's veterans and honor our commitment to their families.

As we gather here today on the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery and in countless public places in communities across the United States, let us also reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in our Nation's defense. Let the tributes we render today honor the memory of their service and the lives of their families.

On behalf of the Veterans Day National Committee and the Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America, this year's host organization, I welcome you to the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Peake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

James B. Peake, M.D.

# Veterans Day National Ceremony

**November 11, 2008**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Musical Prelude .....                   | The United States Navy Band  |
| Presidential Wreath Ceremony .....      | The Honorable Richard B. Cheney<br>Vice President of the United States                   |
| Musical Selection.....                  | The United States Navy Band  |
| Procession of Colors .....              | National Emblem March  |
| Prayer for Veterans.....                | Chaplain Keith Ethridge<br>Director, VA Chaplain Service                                 |
| The Pledge of Allegiance .....          | Michael L. McCoy, Sr.<br>National President<br>Military Chaplains Association of the USA |
| Introduction of Guests.....             | Ms. Bo Derek<br>Mistress of Ceremonies   |
| Welcoming Remarks .....                 | Michael L. McCoy, Sr.<br>National President<br>Military Chaplains Association of the USA |
| Introduction of the Guest Speaker ..... | The Honorable James B. Peake, M.D.<br>Secretary of Veterans Affairs                      |
| Address .....                           | The Honorable Richard B. Cheney<br>Vice President of the United States                   |
| Retiring of the Colors.....             | The United States Navy Band  |

*Courtesy transportation by Tourmobile*

**In respect to the American Flag, please take the small flags handed out before the ceremony with you or place them in containers on your way out of Arlington National Cemetery.**

# Veterans Day National Committee 2008

## Honorary Chairman

The Honorable George W. Bush  
*President of the United States*

## Chairman

The Honorable James B. Peake, M.D.  
*Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

## Vice Chairman

The Honorable Lisette M. Mondello  
*Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs*

## Honorary Members

The Honorable Robert M. Gates  
*Secretary of Defense*

The Honorable Daniel Akaka  
*Chairman*  
*Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs*

The Honorable Bob Filner  
*Chairman*  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs*

The Honorable Richard M. Burr  
*Ranking Member*  
*Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs*

The Honorable Steve Buyer  
*Ranking Member*  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs*

## Members

Chaplain Michael L. McCoy  
President, Military Chaplains  
Association of the USA

Mr. Norbert R. Ryan, Jr.  
President, Military Officers  
Association of America

Mr. Gerald Kryzniefski  
National Commander  
Catholic War Veterans, USA

Mr. H. Gene Overstreet  
National Commander  
Non Commissioned Officers  
Association of the USA

Mr. Randy L. Pleva, Sr.  
National President  
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Mr. Stanley J. Trela, Jr.  
National Commander  
Polish Legion of American  
Veterans, USA

Mr. John P. Rowan  
National President  
Vietnam Veterans of America

Mr. David K. Rehbein  
National Commander  
The American Legion

Mr. Barry D. Gasdek  
National Commander  
Legion of Valor of the USA

Mr. William F. Mac Swain  
National President  
Korean War Veterans Association

Mr. Glen M. Gardner, Jr.  
Commander-in-Chief  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of  
The United States

Mr. Jeff Roy  
National Commander  
Military Order of the Purple Heart  
of the USA

Mr. Robert L. Wetzel  
Commander-in-Chief  
Military Order of the World Wars

Mr. Antonio Gil Morales  
National Commander  
American G.I. Forum

Mr. John Hapner  
National Commander  
AMVETS

Mr. Mal Middlesworth  
President  
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association

Mr. Charlie Flowers  
National President  
The Retired Enlisted Association

Mr. Ira Novoselsky  
National Commander  
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Dr. Norman Jones, Jr.  
National President  
Blinded Veterans Association

Mr. F. Donald Muckeck  
National President  
Fleet Reserve Association

Mr. Robert L. Howard  
National President  
Congressional Medal of Honor Society  
of the USA

Mr. Jim Clark  
National Commander  
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Mr. Lloyd Gibbs  
National Commander  
Army and Navy Union, USA

Mr. James R. Laskey  
National Commandant  
Marine Corps League

Mr. Raymond E. Dempsey  
National Commander  
Disabled American Veterans

## Associate Members

Ms. Georgie Carter Krell  
National President  
American Gold Star Mothers

Mr. Joseph E. Sutter  
National Chairman of the Board  
Air Force Association

Ms. Gail J. McGovern  
President and CEO  
American Red Cross

Mr. William M. Matz, Jr.  
President, National Association for  
Uniformed Services

Ms. Kathy S. Upchurch  
National President  
Gold Star Wives of America

Mr. Waverly R. Holland  
National Commander  
Navy Seabee Veterans of America

Dr. Lester Tenney  
Commander, American Defenders of  
Bataan and Corregidor

Mr. Robert Nakamoto  
President, Japanese American Veterans  
Association

Mr. Peter J. Forbes  
National Commander  
Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc &  
The Veterans Coalition

Mr. John R. McCauslin  
International President  
Air Force Sergeants Association

Mr. John W. Crowley  
President, National Association of  
State Veterans Homes

Ms. Darlene Baker  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Bowlers to Veterans Link

Ms. Sabrah Rolfe  
National President  
Blue Star Mothers of America

Mr. Roger Chapin  
Founder & President  
Help Hospitalized Veterans

Mr. Demetri Paris  
President  
Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

Ms. Lisa Szymanski  
National President  
Women's Army Corp Veterans  
Association



HERE RESTS IN  
HONORED GLORY  
AN AMERICAN  
SOLDIER  
KNOWN TO GOD



## The Military Chaplains Association Veterans Day 2008 National Ceremony Host Organization

The Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America was founded in 1925 and chartered by an act of the United States Congress in 1950. The Military Chaplains Association (MCA) speaks as a member of The Military Coalition and on several other platforms as “the Voice of Chaplaincy.”



MCA members serve or have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Department of Veterans Affairs, or Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol chaplaincies. Associate Members are religious faith group leaders, chaplain assistants, and others interested in MCA’s purpose and mission. MCA members represent the rich and diverse religious heritage in the United States.



The MCA is committed to the religious freedom and spiritual welfare of America’s military, veterans, families and survivors. To carry out this commitment, the MCA provides ministry profession support for chaplains. The MCA helps people within and beyond the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs who seek assistance with religious matters or access to pastoral care. For additional information on MCA ministry features, go to [www.mca-usa.org](http://www.mca-usa.org).

