



Courtesy of Department of Veterans Affairs

## Veterans Day 2007: Nov. 11

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day as a way to honor those who served in all American wars. The day has evolved into also honoring living military veterans with parades and speeches across the nation. A national ceremony takes place at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

### 23.7 million

The number of military veterans in the United States in 2006. (Source: Table 505 of the upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*.)

## Female Veterans

### 1.7 million

The number of female veterans in 2006. (Source: Table 505 of the upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*.)

### 16%

Percentage of Gulf War veterans in 2006 who were women. (Source: Table 506 of the upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*.)

## Race and Hispanic Origin

### 2.4 million

The number of black veterans in 2006. Additionally, 1.1 million veterans are Hispanic; 292,000 are Asian; 169,000 are American Indian or Alaska Native; and 28,000 are Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. (The numbers for blacks, Asians, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders cover only those reporting a single race.) (Source: 2006 American Community Survey.)



Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

## When They Served

### 9.2 million

The number of veterans 65 and older in 2006. At the other end of the age spectrum, 1.9 million were younger than 35. (Source: Table 506 of the upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*.)

### 8 million

Number of Vietnam-era veterans in 2006. Thirty-three percent of all living veterans served during this time (1964-1975). In addition, 4.6 million served during the Gulf War (representing service from Aug. 2, 1990, to present); 3.2 million in World War II (1941-1945); 3.1 million in the Korean War (1950-1953); and 6.1 million in peacetime. (Source: Table 506 of the upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*.)



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### 430,000

In 2006, number of living veterans who served during both the Vietnam era and the Gulf War.

Other living veterans in 2006 who served in two or more wars:

- 350,000 served during both the Korean and Vietnam wars.
- 78,000 served during three periods: World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.
- 294,000 served in World War II and the Korean War.

(Source: 2006 American Community Survey.)

### 3

The documented number of living World War I veterans who served with U.S. forces as of Oct. 2, 2007.

(Source: The Department of Veterans Affairs)



Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

## Where They Live

### 6

Number of states with 1 million or more veterans in 2006. These states are California (2.2 million), Florida (1.7 million), Texas (1.7 million), New York (1.1 million), Pennsylvania (1.1 million) and Ohio (1 million). (Source: Table 505 of the upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*.)

## Education

### 25%

Percent of veterans 25 and older with at least a bachelor's degree in 2006. (Source: 2006 American Community Survey.)

**90%**

Percent of veterans 25 and older with a high school diploma or higher in 2006. (Source: 2006 American Community Survey.)

## Income and Poverty

**\$34,437**

Annual median income of veterans, in 2006 inflation-adjusted dollars. (Source: 2006 American Community Survey.)

**5.9%**

Percentage of veterans living in poverty, as of 2006. The corresponding rate for nonveterans was 12.3 percent. (Source: 2006 American Community Survey.)

## On the Job

**11.1 million**

Number of veterans 18 to 64 in the labor force in 2006. (Source: 2005 American Community Survey.)



Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

## Disabilities

**6.1 million**

Number of veterans with a disability. More than half this number (3.5 million) were 65 or older. (Source: 2006 American Community Survey.)

## Voting

**17.4 million**

Number of veterans who voted in the 2004 presidential election. Seventy-four percent of veterans cast a ballot, compared with 63 percent of nonveterans. (Source: *Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2004*, at <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/voting/006562.html>)



Courtesy of U.S. Navy

## Business Owners

### 14.5%

Percentage of owners of firms that responded to the 2002 Survey of Business Owners who were veterans. Respondent veteran business owners totaled 3 million. (Source: *Characteristics of Veteran-Owned Businesses: 2002* at [http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business\\_ownership/010337.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business_ownership/010337.html))

### 68%

Percentage of veteran owners of respondent firms who were 55 and older. This compares with 31 percent of all owners of respondent firms. Similarly, in 2002, 55 percent of veteran-owned respondent firms with employees reported that their businesses were established, purchased or acquired before 1990, compared with 36 percent of all employer respondent firms. (Source: *Characteristics of Veteran-Owned Businesses: 2002 and Characteristics of Veteran Business Owners: 2002*, at [http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business\\_ownership/010337.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business_ownership/010337.html))

### 7%

Percentage of all respondent veteran owners who were disabled as the result of injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. (Source: *Characteristics of Veteran-Owned Businesses: 2002 and Characteristics of Veteran Business Owners: 2002*, at [http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business\\_ownership/010337.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/business_ownership/010337.html))



Courtesy of U.S. Marines

## Benefits

### 2.7 million

Number of veterans who received compensation for service-connected disabilities as of 2006. Their compensation for was \$26.6 billion. (Source: Table 508 of the upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*.)

### Jan. 21, 2007

The date of death of the last World War I veteran receiving compensation or pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs. (Source: Department of Veterans Affairs)

### \$72.4 billion

Total amount of federal government spending for veterans benefits programs in fiscal year 2006. Of this total, \$34.5 billion went to compensation and pensions and \$31.3 billion for medical programs. (Source: Table 508 of the upcoming *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2008*.)



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Following are observances covered in 2007 by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

African-American History Month (February)	Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)
Super Bowl XLI (Feb. 4)	Back to School (August)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)	Labor Day (Sept. 3)
Women's History Month (March)	Grandparents Day (Sept. 9)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/ St. Patrick's Day (March 17)	Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month (May)	Halloween (Oct. 31)
Older Americans Month (May)	Unmarried and Single Americans Week (Sept. 16-22)
Cinco de Mayo (May 5)	Sputnik Launch 50th Anniversary (Oct. 4)
Mother's Day (May 13)	American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month (November)
Hurricane Season Begins (June 1)	Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Father's Day (June 17)	Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22)
The Fourth of July (July 4)	The Holiday Season (December)

**Editor's note:** The preceding data were collected from a variety of sources and may be subject to sampling variability and other sources of error. *Facts for Features* are customarily released about two months before an observance in order to accommodate magazine production timelines. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: 301-763-3030; fax: 301-763-3762; or e-mail: [pio@census.gov](mailto:pio@census.gov).