

HOLIDAYS & HEROES

*Let's Celebrate*  
**VETERANS DAY**



BY Barbara deRubertis

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On November 11 of every year, Americans celebrate Veterans Day. On this day, we honor our country's veterans, the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Cities and towns across America have parades and concerts. Schools have special assemblies. Many Americans spend time talking with family or friends who are veterans. Listening to their stories helps us appreciate all the ways they have served our country.

Men and women can join one of these branches of the military if they are

- United States citizens or legal permanent residents,
- high school graduates,
- at least 17 years old, and
- able to pass the physical exam.



When members of the military complete their service, they are veterans. Anyone who dies or is killed while serving is also a veteran.

## The Five Branches of the Armed Forces

**The Army** is the oldest branch of the military. It was formed in June of 1775, during the early days of the American Revolution.

The Army's job is to protect the United States and its allies, or friends, on land. For example, if an enemy attacks a city, the Army will move in to defend that city and drive out the enemy.





To do this job, men and women in the Army use

- armor (such as tanks),
- air support (such as helicopters), and
- weapons (such as guns and missiles).



**The Navy** was formed just a few months after the Army, in October of 1775.

The Navy's job is to protect the right to travel freely on seas and oceans around the world. For example, if enemy ships attack, the Navy will drive away those ships or destroy them.



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