

Veterans Day Reflection

Today, Tuesday, November 11, 2025, our nation pauses to celebrate Veterans Day—a day set aside “to honor men and women who have served in the armed forces.”

It’s important to remember the distinction: **Memorial Day** honors America’s fallen heroes, while **Veterans Day** pays tribute to all American veterans—both living and deceased.

Where would we, as citizens of the United States, be today if not for those who counted the cost of freedom and willingly served and sacrificed for it?

To recognize their service, Congress declared November 11 a legal public holiday to honor America’s veterans. For their sacrifices—and for the peace, prosperity, and liberty their service has secured—our nation owes them a profound debt of gratitude. Today, across the country, many will pause to say a heartfelt *thank you* to our veterans.

A Personal Tradition

Years ago, after leaving the Army, I began a tradition of starting Veterans Day with a special breakfast. Sometimes at home, sometimes at a local restaurant, I take time to reflect on my service—especially my time in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 with the First Infantry Division. That breakfast always includes SOS (creamed chipped beef on toast)—a dish every veteran knows well.

As I eat, memories return. I don’t remember all their names, but I do remember the faces and the moments shared with those I served alongside. I give thanks for the privilege of serving briefly with them:

- Boot camp at Ft. Benning, GA
- Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Jackson, SC
- Back to Ft. Benning for Officer Candidate School
- My first assignment as a second lieutenant at Ft. Bragg, NC
- Jungle training in Panama
- Deployment to Vietnam with the First Infantry Division based in Dian

After Vietnam, I was sent to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL, and later to Valley Forge Army Hospital in Pennsylvania due to a fractured tibia and fibula. Once my leg healed, I resigned my commission, married Carolyn, and began my college and seminary education.

As we reflect today, let’s remember the courage, sacrifice, and commitment of all who served.

May your Veterans Day be meaningful and filled with gratitude.

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