

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, November 10, 1995

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## **VETERANS DAY**

### **STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE**

This Saturday, November 11th, America will celebrate Veterans Day--the day we set aside to honor the men and women who defend our country and preserve our peace and freedom.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day. It was first celebrated in 1919, to mark the end of a war that was to have ended all wars.

Two years later, the remains of four unknown American soldiers were brought to a town square in a small French town. An American sergeant placed a bouquet of white roses on one of the caskets, designating the American unknown soldier of World War I.

The casket was brought across the Atlantic, and our nation laid this hero to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 1921.

74 years have now passed since that ceremony. And in that time, thanks in part to the efforts of the citizens of Emporia, Kansas, Armistice Day became Veterans Day.

That change became necessary because, as we all know, the first World War did not end all wars. And today, caskets bearing the remains of other unknown soldiers who fought in World War II, in Korea, and in Vietnam, now rest in Arlington alongside countless other American heroes.

In the early days of World War II, General George Marshall was asked whether or not America had a secret weapon. And the General said, "just the best darned kids in the world."

Those words were true then, and they have remained true throughout this century. America has succeeded and democracy and freedom have flourished only because the best darned kids in the world were willing to risk their lives for their country.

#### **Remember Those Who Defend Freedom & Liberty**

On Saturday, I hope all Americans will pause to remember those who stood boldly in harm's way, defending freedom and liberty around the world.

And as we remember those who served in the conflicts of yesterday, let us not forget the men and women who fill the ranks of our armed forces today. They share with the veterans of past conflicts the same values of duty, courage, and sacrifice.

Today's all-volunteer force--active and reserve--stands ready to defend our individual freedoms and our national ideals. At the same time, they are asked to take on new, additional missions around the world. And, as always, they complete each new mission with professionalism and excellence. They give us all reason to be proud.

Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they have suffered the scars of war. And on this Veterans Day, we can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us. That is our duty. They have never let America down. And we will not let them down.

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