



Trinity Episcopal Church and Anglican Community:
Special Edition November 11, 2024



VETERANS DAY | NOVEMBER 11

With Respect, Honor, and Gratitude

Our Trinity Veterans

Chuck
Brown

Kevin
Henry

Bob
Hoek

Bernie
Milano

Adam
Pierson Milano

Al
Morel

Spencer
Yan



And remembering our veterans who have passed:
Arnold Barsten, Greg Roy, and Dick VanHouten

And Our Extended Family Active Duty
Nick, Jason, Elizabeth, Quintin, Matt, and David

*Gracious God,
We give thanks for military men and women,
both from the past and present,
and for their courageous service and sacrifice
to our country and its people
to secure the blessings of life, liberty, and justice for all.
May our remembrance be a timely reminder
that our freedom was purchased at high cost
and should not be taken for granted.
Give us resolve to labor in faithful service to you
until all share the benefits of
freedom, justice, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*



8 WAYS TO SAY “THANK YOU VETERANS” ON VETERANS DAY



Rene Ramos, veteran and retired U. S. Navy senior chief petty officer, holds a Prisoners of War and Missing in Action flag during a five-kilometer run commemorating POW/MIA Recognition Day, at the Heritage Park on JBSA-Randolph, Texas.

Military.com | By [Ho Lin](#)
Updated August 29, 2024

| (Senior Airman Tyler McQuiston/U.S. Air Force photo)

Veterans Day is a time to honor and thank those who have served in the military for their sacrifices and dedication. It’s an important day to show appreciation.

You might consider writing a heartfelt letter or spending time with a veteran, listening to their stories and sharing in their experiences. Volunteering at a local veterans' organization or donating to nonprofits that support veterans' health and well-being can also make a meaningful impact. Even simple acts like attending a Veterans Day ceremony or flying the American flag show respect and solidarity.

Your efforts can help veterans feel valued and supported, not just on this day, but throughout the year.

Say "Thank You Veterans" by Showing Up

Attend a Veterans Day event in your area -- not just a picnic with friends but an honest-to-goodness parade or service for veterans. Roy Rogers said, "We can't all be heroes; someone has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by." Veterans Day is a great opportunity to do just that.



Donate to Veteran-Focused Charities



There are a plethora of wonderful organizations that offer all manner of support, services and appreciation for our service members. To get a few ideas for veteran donations, check out some [charities that make a difference](#) in the veteran community.

There are wonderful organizations that offer all manner of support, services and appreciation for our service members. To get a few ideas for veteran donations, check out some [charities that make a difference](#) in the veteran community.

Fly a Flag – Correctly

- Veterans Day is a great opportunity to fly the flag. Just make sure you're observing the proper rules for display. Here are a few of those important tips:
- Never drag a U.S. flag on the ground or let it touch the ground.
- Don't drape it over the hood, top, sides or back of a vehicle.
- Don't display the U.S. flag above any other flag and keep it at the center when it's surrounded by other flags.
- Don't display a tattered or torn flag. Flags that are tattered and torn should be disposed of in a respectful way, preferably by burning.
- Never use the flag as apparel, bedding or drapery.



Ask Someone About Their Service



It seems like we all know someone who has served, and Veterans Day is a great time to ask them about their service. Learning more about their service can help you appropriately say "thank you."

Questions You Can Ask Veterans

Here are some questions to get you started:

- What did you do in the military?
- How long did you serve?
- What was your favorite moment in all your time in the service?
- Did anyone else in your family serve?
- Why did you go into the service branch that you did?



Do not ask whether they've killed anyone. If you're talking to a combat vet, be supportive without being intrusive. Sometimes you don't have to say much of anything; just listen and give them your full attention

Write a Letter to Say “Thank you, Veterans”



If you know a veteran, write a simple letter, postcard or email that recognizes them on Veterans Day. If you don't know a veteran, look up the closest military installation and send one there. Small acts of recognizing someone's service, even anonymously, are appreciated.

The military-focused nonprofit Soldiers' Angels organizes volunteers to write letters to deployed troops, veterans and their caregivers through its Letters for Soldiers initiative.

Visit a VA Hospital

Find out what the policies are at your nearest VA hospital for interacting with patients or volunteering, and spend the day with a veteran. Many VA facilities will have events on Veterans Day or a special lunch you can help prepare. Even if you never interact with a veteran, helping at a facility is a way to give back and saying "thank you veterans."

<https://www.military.com/veterans-day/8-ways-to-express-appreciation-on-veterans-day.html>

A VETERANS DAY REFLECTION

Racial Reconciliation

November 5, 2024

By Ann Ritonia

One would think the last place you would find Beloved Community is on a military installation, but you would be wrong. I had the privilege to lead worship and visit with the Episcopal community at Ramstein Air Base in Ramstein, Germany; and as we gathered for fellowship and worship, it was apparent how much this community cared for one another. In a command structure where rank is everything, among this community of Jesus followers there was a sense of belonging, peace, and social equity among the military and Department of Defense civilians. There were no salutes or “yes” or “no, ma’am.” Instead, everyone pitched in to make sure all would be ready for worship. I watched with pride as one of our Episcopal chaplains helped the Orthodox chaplain clean up before the Episcopal service, and a general officer vacuumed the bread crumbs from the floor of the worship space.

During worship, I watched an older member reach out and hold a fussy baby that clearly did not belong to her. After service, I listened as members of the community shared tips on living overseas and offered advice and help to newcomers on how to navigate the orderly but challenging German bureaucracy. They talked about ways they could welcome the LGBTQIA+ community who are especially isolated and create safe space for airmen, away from home for the first time, struggling with loneliness. I am not naïve enough to think this happens at every military base or chapel, but what a gift to know it exists here in this corner of the world where Episcopalians are making a difference by sharing the love of Jesus with others.

I am so grateful for all those who serve in our nation's military and for our veterans, some of whom have given and suffered much. This Veterans Day, I encourage you to not only thank a veteran for their service but ask how they served and the impact it had on their lives. Think of ways you can be and create Beloved Community for veterans and members of the military. Our military and veterans come from all walks of life and have much to teach us about Beloved Community. They know what it means to love and sacrifice and share, especially under conditions of duress. This Veterans Day, put out the welcome mat, offer prayers, and participate in events that celebrate their service and sacrifice. Our military and veterans need you as much as you need them. Live fully into Jesus' way of love and show the world what it means to be Beloved Community.

The Rt. Rev. Ann Ritonio is the VIII Bishop Suffragan of Armed Forces and Federal Ministries (and the first woman).



Armed forces bishop to preach Veterans Day sermon livestreamed from Dallas

BY SHIREEN KORKZAN Posted Nov 8, 2024

[Episcopal News Service] St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas, will host its annual livestreamed Veterans Day worship service on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 5:30 p.m. Central. The Rt. Rev. Ann Ritonio, bishop suffragan for The Episcopal Church' armed forces and federal ministries, will preach.

“I’m grateful that St. Michael’s honors our veterans every year,” Ritonio, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, told Episcopal News Service. “It’s good to support our veterans and our communities with a message.”

The bishop suffragan for armed forces and federal ministries is a member of the presiding bishop’s staff and is elected by the House of Bishops. In this role, Ritonio is responsible for recruiting, endorsing and supporting chaplains in the military, veterans’ hospitals and federal prisons. Currently, 64 Episcopal chaplains are serving in the military, according to Ritonio, who in September 2023 was ordained the first woman bishop suffragan in armed forces and federal ministries’ nearly 60-year history.

Veterans Day, also known as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day in other countries, is observed every Nov. 11. It was first observed in 1919 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the signing of armistice between the Allied nations and Germany, marking the official end of World War I. The ceasefire officially took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month local time in Compiègne, northern France, where the armistice was signed. In the United States, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all veterans, both living and deceased.

As of 2023, 15.8 million veterans live in the United States, 1.7 million of whom are women, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The United States has 1.31 million active-duty military personnel as of 2024.

“Veterans Day is a day when we say, ‘Thank you for your service,’ which is a wonderful thing, but I would encourage people to engage further and be curious. Ask questions like, ‘What was your service like? What was meaningful about the work you did? How can we as a country support you now, given the sacrifices you made?’ Ritonía said.

“When we think of our faith, and we think of love and we think of gratitude, we respond with action. It’s by reaching out to those that are isolated, those that need food, those that are poor, those that are imprisoned, those with mental illness ... God’s love is action.”

Ritonía said Episcopalians can support veterans in many ways, such as volunteering or donating money to their local VA hospitals and praying for veterans during worship services. She also mentioned the Diocese of Western Massachusetts’ Building Bridges community ministry that hosts regular lunches for veterans.

The Rev. Christopher G. Girata, rector of St. Michael’s and Ritonía’s classmate at Virginia Theological Seminary, told ENS that the church’s Veterans Day service annually attracts 400-600 members of the congregation and the wider community. He said he’s looking forward to learning about Ritonía’s work with active military personnel.

“It really is a big, fun event. It’s a celebration of the people who are remembered for their good service through the structure of a prayer service,” Girata said. “The Veterans Day service is an opportunity to recognize, celebrate, appreciate and love this unique group of people in our community.”

Stream the worship service live from St. Michael’s website or YouTube channel.

St. Michael’s one-hour Veterans Day service will start like a traditional evening prayer service with prayers, Scripture and hymns sung by the church’s choir, but the second half will be festive. A brass band from a local Veterans of Foreign Wars post will perform, concluding with the “Armed Forces Medley.” Veterans will be invited to stand and gather in front of the congregation when they hear their branch’s song. After the medley concludes, the veterans will take a group photo, and all are welcome to stay for a reception with snacks and desserts.

Girata said parishioners who are active-duty military personnel will also be included in the church’s Veterans Day worship service bulletin.

Ritonía will also preach at St. Michael’s middle and high school services earlier in the day. She will talk about her experience serving in the Marines. She will share how students can live a life of service and the vocational routes they can go through, such as Reserve Officers’ Training Corps programs and chaplaincy.

The next day, Ritonia will visit St. Michael Episcopal School, a preschool-kindergarten school connected to and operated by St. Michael and All Angels, where she will talk about acts of service with the children.

Girata said it's possible to support the U.S. military as Christians without partisan politics.

"First, we are disciples of Jesus, and then we are American," Girata said. "I think it becomes problematic when we begin to conflate the love of our neighbors with a burgeoning love of country, but it is possible to differentiate the two."

Ritonia said the biggest misconception of the armed forces is the idea that military personnel are warmongers.

"We don't welcome war; we prepare and train for it because the reality is we don't live in a perfect world," Ritonia said. "War is a terrible thing, and if we lived in a sinless and perfect world, we wouldn't need trained military for protection. War will no longer exist when God's kingdom comes to fruition, but we're not there yet."

Between spending long periods away from loved ones, risking permanent physical and mental injury and many other sacrifices, Ritonia said, serving in the military isn't easy. Still, Ritonia said she has many positive memories from her time serving in the Marines, with her favorite coming from her time as an administrative officer supporting family members of deployed military personnel during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

"It was incredibly rewarding to make sure that they had what they needed in order to thrive while their service person was deployed," she said. "Service over self is the kind of life that I was able to live in in the military and develop relationships with people who wanted to do the same thing. ... We wanted to make the world a better place and reflect God's love, and my faith was a big part of that."

-Shireen Korkzan is a reporter and assistant editor for Episcopal News Service.

Click this link to access the episcopal news service live stream or copy & paste in your browser:

<https://episcopalnewservice.org/2024/11/08/armed-forces-bishop-to-preach-veterans-day-sermon-livestreamed-from-dallas/#:~:text=Armed%20forces%20bishop%20to%20preach%20Veterans%20Day%20sermon%20livestreamed%20from%20Dallas,-By%20Shireen%20Korkzan&text=%5BEpiscopal%20News%20Service%5D%20St..at%205%3A30%20p.m.%20Central>



5 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT VETERANS DAY



Click this link to see the 5 minute video ▶ : <https://www.military.com/veterans-day>

1. It's "Veterans Day," not "Veteran's Day." The holiday has no apostrophe because it is meant to honor all veterans, not just a single veteran or belonging to veterans collectively. The day is for recognizing the service and sacrifice of veterans as a group. This distinction reflects the inclusive and national focus of the holiday.
2. At one point, Veterans Day used to be celebrated on the fourth Monday of October instead of November 11. In the late 1960s, Congress passed a law intended to stimulate the economy by adding more three-day weekends. They thought it would help encourage travel and other recreation. Under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Washington's Birthday, [Memorial Day](#), Columbus Day and Veterans Day were all on Mondays.

But many states disagreed with the choice, especially since Veterans Day was designated as November 11 for historic reasons. So in September 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a law returning Veterans Day to November 11, starting in 1978.

3. [Armistice Day was recast as Veterans Day](#) in 1954. After World War II and the Korean War, there was a growing recognition that the day should honor all veterans, not just those from WWI.
4. Marines celebrate their service birthday and Veterans Day with a 96-hour liberty. Veterans Day comes just one day after the [Marine Corps birthday](#) on November 10. Typically celebrated with a ball and cake-cutting ceremony, the birthday celebration offers enlisted Marines a 96-hour liberty to mark both holidays together.
5. A group once campaigned to rename Armistice Day as "Mayflower Day." When "the war to end all wars" failed to do so, a small group of Americans led by Francis Carr Stifler of the American Bible Society proposed the "Mayflower Day" idea. They argued that the signing of the Mayflower Compact, on November 11, 1620, was more appropriate to honor, since that agreement was the foundation upon which the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights stood. The idea gained little traction.



Official website of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

History of Veterans Day

World War I—known at the time as “The Great War”—officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

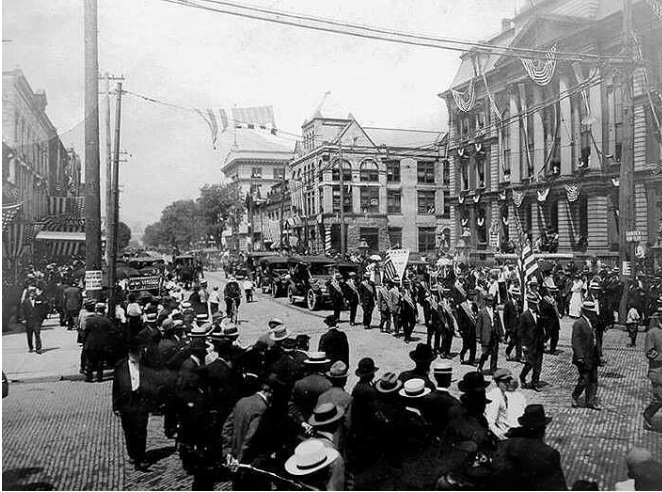
Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the

historical significance of the date but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

VETERANS DAY TIMELINE

<https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/>

1919



In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

1926

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

1938

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter

celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor Veterans of World War I.

1954

In 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the Veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American Veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the [first “Veterans Day Proclamation” \(PDF\)](#) which stated: “In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all Veterans, all Veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.”

1958

In 1958, the White House advised VA’s General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee’s chairman.

1968

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

1971

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

<https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/>



VETERANS DAY POSTER COMPETITION

Each year the Veterans Day National Committee publishes a commemorative Veterans Day poster. The Committee selects a poster from artwork submitted by artists nationwide. Over the years these posters have illustrated the rich history of our country's service men and women. The poster reflects our pride and patriotism in saluting Veterans while providing the thematic artistry for the year.

The theme for Veterans Day 2024 is "A Legacy of Loyalty and Service", and this year's winning poster was designed by Myisha Godette, a retired, disabled Army Veteran from Queens, New York.

Myisha's design was driven by a desire to represent all who have served. "As a Veteran, I've sometimes felt underrepresented, prompting me to consider how best to incorporate inclusivity and the essence of loyalty and service," she said. "Ultimately, I chose to symbolize the shared experience of service members—past, present, and future—with elements like the American Flag, military "dog tags," and the enduring strength of Veterans, embodied by a solid, dark concrete background in my design."



The 2024 Veterans Day poster will be displayed in VA facilities, military installations and municipal buildings across America. It will also serve as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11.



NATIONAL CEREMONIES

<https://www.military.com/veterans-day>

In addition to the wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery, several other prominent national Veterans Day ceremonies take place across the United States, including:

- National World War II Memorial: Located in Washington, D.C., this memorial hosts an annual ceremony featuring speeches by dignitaries and veterans, as well as a wreath-laying event to honor those who served during World War II.
- Veterans Day National Ceremony: Also held at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., this event includes the traditional reading of the names of veterans who have passed away in the last year, along with musical tributes and speeches.
- California's Veterans Day Ceremony: Held at the California State Capitol in Sacramento, this ceremony features a program that includes musical performances, speeches from state officials, and a wreath-laying ceremony to honor California veterans.

- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: This memorial in Washington, D.C., hosts special ceremonies that often include the reading of names of fallen soldiers and other tributes to Vietnam veterans, emphasizing remembrance and reflection.

These ceremonies serve to honor and remember the sacrifices of veterans, providing opportunities for reflection. <https://www.military.com/veterans-day>

Virtual Events

For Veterans Day, many events across the U.S. are now livestreamed, especially since the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, allowing people to participate from anywhere. Virtual options allow more inclusivity and accessibility.

Some of the national ceremonies, such as the one held at Arlington National Cemetery, are often live-streamed, providing viewers the opportunity to witness the wreath-laying and other tributes. Additionally, many local communities, schools, and organizations use YouTube, Zoom or social media platforms to host virtual events like webinars, panel discussions with veterans, and online tributes that feature video montages, speeches, and concerts.

How to Honor Veterans on Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a time to honor and thank those who have served in the military for their sacrifices and dedication. It's an important day to show appreciation.

You might consider writing a heartfelt letter or spending time with a veteran, listening to their stories and sharing their experiences. Volunteering at a local veterans' organization or donating to nonprofits that support veterans' health and well-being can also make a meaningful impact. Even simple acts like attending a Veterans Day ceremony or flying the American flag show respect and solidarity.

Your efforts can help veterans feel valued and supported, not just on this day, but throughout the year.

Don't Confuse Veterans Day with Memorial Day

Veterans Day is a time to thank those who are serving or have served and are still with us. Memorial Day is to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in service to their country. Confusing the two or combining the two diminishes the importance of both.

[Learn more about Memorial Day vs. Veterans Day.](#)



MEDITATIONS

VETERANS' DAY MEDITATION

Armed Forces and Federal Ministries:



<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/federalministries/veterans-day-meditation/>

I greet you in the Name of the Lord Jesus on this the 105th commemoration of “Veterans Day.” It used to be called “Armistice Day” in thanksgiving for the peace that was signed between the Allied and Axis powers. When President Woodrow Wilson made the second Armistice Day (11 November 1919) an official celebration, we were an optimistic people. The horribly tragic “War to End All Wars” had ended the previous year. Things were looking up. Americans had every right to expect that no civilized person would ever want war again. Then, barely twenty-years later, a deranged German Army Corporal, a veteran of that same war, set out to conquer the world and brought us into WWII. And so went the 20th century, arguably the most violent century ever.

Undoubtedly, those wars (and all subsequent ones) made us wonder what in the world can we trust? We were so hopeful that goodness and truth would come out of violence and evil; and it did not happen. Moreover, we are even now living through precarious and dangerous times – more dangerous than we have known for several generations – dangerous morally, socially, politically, etc. Upon reflection, our time bears a close resemblance to the inter-war years (1918 – 1938). We, too “have been through a great tribulation (Revelation 7): ours was called the Viet Nam conflict. Our whole society changed during and after the 1960s. Previous customs, values, and beliefs were all questioned or abandoned altogether.

These are times like those. Consensus has broken down. Fear is all around. There is an unspoken undercurrent of anxiety and uncertainty. We don’t know what the future holds.

But I ask you to join me in trusting in the true and living God, just as Job did, when he said , in the midst of great confusion, “I know that my Redeemer liveth (Job 19). Let us be hopeful that the good will always eventually out. Our veterans deserve our respect because they are the guarantors of the freedoms we enjoy. Our veterans do the bidding of politicians and diplomats, who we pray have our best interests in mind. Veterans fight to preserve our constitutional rights. Veterans die so we can live. So, on this 98th commemoration of Veterans Day, let us give thanks to God for their service keep them in our prayers.



[**Editor’s note:** this was adapted from the article published in 2017, i.e., reference to “105th” commemoration]



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
55 GEORGE STREET, ALLENDALE, NEW JERSEY 07401
EMAIL: INFO@TRINITYNBC.ORG (201) 327-3012 WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.TRINITYNBC.ORG](http://WWW.TRINITYNBC.ORG)

THANK YOU VETERANS!
