

Veterans Day

Often many well-meaning veterans will say, “This is our day. Why should we have an event honoring ourselves?” While it’s true that this is the day set aside for communities and other organizations to honor those who have served, it is also a time for us to honor those with whom we have served. For that reason alone, it is important for the VFW, at all levels, to attend and participate in city-led events.

If your community chooses to ignore its veterans, then it is incumbent on your Post to take the lead. Take advantage of the opportunity to show others why you served. Take advantage of the opportunity to show young people some of the memorabilia that has special significance to you.

The following are some ideas you may wish to consider:

- Organize a short parade or a gathering at a local veterans’ memorial. Invite all veterans, other local civic groups/leaders, high school bands, JROTC , Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea Cadets, Scout units to march and participate in a short program at the end.
- Distribute “Buddy”® Poppies and invite the Scouts, JROTC and local sports teams to help with distribution.
- Have a Post open house displaying your member’s memorabilia, “Buddy”® Poppies, and scholarship materials. Demonstrate proper Flag etiquette, conduct a Flag retirement ceremony, formally adopt a local military unit, invite local politicians to debate each other or answer questions about their positions on veterans and military issues.
- Set up a booth at the local mall incorporating elements listed in the Post open house above.

Anything you can do that recognizes the service of your members and all veterans is appropriate for Veterans Day. Above all, if your community has a Veterans Day event that you marshal every member of the Post and Auxiliary to show up and participate. When veterans fail to attend these events, these events usually go quietly away and that’s the last thing we want.