

VETERAN'S DAY MESSAGE

State Commander Reinold Yahnka

November 10, 2025

On Veterans Day, we recognize the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, a date that will forever be etched in the tapestry of our nation's story.

I am a proud member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as are you. We have all worn the uniform of our country and answered the call to duty, and are still serving our communities.

Veterans Day is the day we honor our living Veterans for their service to our country and thank them for the freedoms we have today. It is an opportunity for a grateful nation to recognize and celebrate every single individual who has worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces, in war or in peace, on active duty or in the Reserve, from the first day they raised their right hand to this very moment. This day allows our nation to pause and, with a united voice, gratefully say: Your service matters. We remember your sacrifice and thank you for your service.

On Veteran's Day, when you go to a service recognizing Veterans and those still wearing the uniform, look around and look at the tapestry of American heroes. Those from World War II and Korea to those who served in Vietnam, to the warriors of the Gulf, the Balkans, and the post-9/11 generation who have fought continuous wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and across the globe, their fighting spirit of service spans generations.

Today, we honor members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Space Force who have left the comforts of home and the warmth of loved ones behind to uphold and defend our American way of life. Veterans Day is about recognizing their choice to place country above self.

Even though we have Memorial Day to remember those who have gone before us, we must also pause to remember the names we no longer call aloud. We hold in our hearts the memory of every man and woman who paid the ultimate sacrifice, whose service ended too soon. Let us never forget the nearly 81,000 Americans who are still unaccounted for, our prisoners of war,

and those missing in action. Their sacrifice remains an open wound, and until every hero is accounted for, we will keep the candle burning.

As you go out to celebrate Veterans Day with citizens of our great nation, I thank you for remembering the true cost of freedom. To my brothers and sisters-in-arms, veterans, and all around the State, Nation, and world, I wish you a happy Veterans Day and a sincere and heartfelt THANK YOU.