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In 1918 outside the palace of Versailles a treaty was signed ending World War 1. Seven months earlier, the fighting had ceased when an armistice began between allied nations and Germany, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour. For that reason the day is regarded as the war to end all wars. In November 1919, the first commemoration of Armistice Day was proclaimed by President Wilson. On May 13th, 1938, an act by congress made the 11th of November of each year a national holiday. The holiday was to be dedicated to world peace, and honor veterans of WWI. In 1954, after WWII, and after the Korean War the 83rd congress amended the act of 1938 to change Armistice Day with Veterans Day.

A Military veteran is someone who served in the Military. There are 6 branches of the military. These include, The Army, The Marine corps, Coast guard, The navy, the air force, And the space force. The President is the commander and chief over the entire US military. There are currently 1.3 million active duty members in the military and 17.4 million veterans in the US.

The Army is the main ground force and the largest. They use land troops, tanks and artillery to control and fight on land. The navy fights in oceans and seas around the world. Using battleships, including aircraft carriers, submarines, and destroyers, they are significantly larger than any other navy in the world. The part of the military that uses aircraft is known as the air force. The air force was part of the army until 1947. They used fighter planes and bombers in active combat. The coast guard is separate from the other branches, as it is part of the department of homeland security. It monitors the coastline and enforces border laws as helps with ocean rescues. The marine corps is responsible for task forces on land, sea and in the air. US marines are forward deployed to win battles swiftly.

My grandfather, Andrew Kemp served during peacetime in the army national guard. He was deployed but never left the country. The army National Guard is community based and reports to the governor of the state. Members of the National Guard can hold civilian jobs and attend school while serving the military. The US government can call upon the National Guard during a natural disaster, for relief aid. In 2016, a law became official to give veteran status to National Guard members who served 20 years or more.

In conclusion, a veteran is any person who served active duty in the armed forces in the US. November 11th is a day to commemorate veterans and their service. We honor their sacrifices for serving our country, keeping us safe and keeping America the land of the free.