

What Is the Difference Between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?

This text has been provided courtesy of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Public Affairs.

Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Both holidays were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. But Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

While those who died are also remembered on Veterans Day, which is observed on November 11, Veterans Day is intended to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living Veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to our national security are appreciated, and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. For information on the National Moment of Remembrance, please visit: www.remember.gov.



Fort Smith National Cemetery

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Whom were Memorial Day and Veterans Day established to recognize and honor?
 - A the men and women who served in the U.S. Congress when “The National Moment of Remembrance Act” was passed
 - B the men and women who encourage those around them to “give something back to their country”
 - C the men and women who observe the National Moment of Remembrance
 - D the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces

2. What does the author compare and contrast with Memorial Day?
 - A a White House Commission
 - B the National Moment of Remembrance
 - C Veterans Day
 - D the United States Armed Forces

3. Based on the evidence in the article, whom is Memorial Day mainly intended to honor?
 - A living Veterans
 - B members of the U.S. Congress
 - C members of the U.S. military who died in service of their country
 - D all those who served honorably in the U.S. military—in wartime and peacetime

4. What is one difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day?
 - A Veterans Day focuses more on honoring living veterans than Memorial Day does.
 - B Veterans Day focuses less on honoring living veterans than Memorial Day does.
 - C Veterans Day focuses on honoring Army veterans, while Memorial Day focuses on honoring Navy veterans.
 - D Veterans Day focuses on honoring Air Force veterans, while Memorial Day focuses on honoring veterans of the Marines.

5. What is the main idea of this text?
 - A Memorial Day was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring U.S. military personnel who died in the service of their country.
 - B The White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance was created in December 2000.
 - C There are similarities between Memorial Day and Veterans Day, which is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service.
 - D There are differences between Veterans Day and Memorial Day, which includes a National Moment of Remembrance.

6. Read this paragraph from the text:

"To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law 'The National Moment of Remembrance Act,' P.L. 106-579, creating the White House **Commission** on the National Moment of Remembrance. The **commission's** charter is to 'encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity' by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance."

What does the word "**commission**" probably mean here?

- A a system of government in which power is held by one person
- B a group of people assigned to carry out a task
- C a business that has many workers and makes a lot of money
- D a military unit whose members have served their country bravely

7. Read this paragraph from the text:

"Many people confuse Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Both holidays were established to recognize and honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces. But Memorial Day, which is observed on the last Monday in May, was originally set aside as a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle."

What word could replace "particularly" in the last sentence without changing the sentence's meaning?

- A especially
- B otherwise
- C initially
- D instead

8. What did the U.S. Congress pass and the president sign into law in December 2000?

9. What does the National Moment of Remembrance encourage all Americans to do?

10. Explain how pausing for a moment of silence on Memorial Day honors people who have died in service to the United States. Support your answer with evidence from the text.
