

Honoring Our Heroes: Veterans Day at The Commons in Lincoln

**A special edition celebrating the courage,
camaraderie, and service of our resident
veterans.**



The Commons Chronicle: Veterans Day Edition



From the Front Lines

“I Went to USMC Officer Candidate School (“OCS”) immediately after graduation from college and received a commission as a second lieutenant upon completing OCS. I truly believe the discipline, training, and leadership experience I received while serving three years as an infantry officer prepared me extremely well for law school, my professional career as a lawyer, my family life, and my other recreational and community activities. Semper Fidelis!”

- BOB ANDERSON

I went to the United States Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI immediately after graduating from college in 1966. Upon my commissioning as an Ensign, I received orders to the USS Charles H. Roan (DD-853),

a destroyer home-ported in Newport. I served on that ship for almost three years where my primary billet was as Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) Officer. The time I served on active duty on the ship was life altering. The responsibilities I had starting as a twenty two year old officer were many and significant. Serving on bridge watches as the officer of the deck while underway as part of an aircraft carrier task force, leading a division of enlisted sailors, and having responsibility for the ship’s sonar system and ASW weaponry provided experience and maturity not available to me in the civilian world. Upon my detachment from the Roan, I stayed in the Naval Reserve during law school and for the first few years of my professional career. The foundation of my active duty and reserve Naval service provided the leadership skills and discipline that were instrumental in my success during the 42 years I practiced law in Pennsylvania.

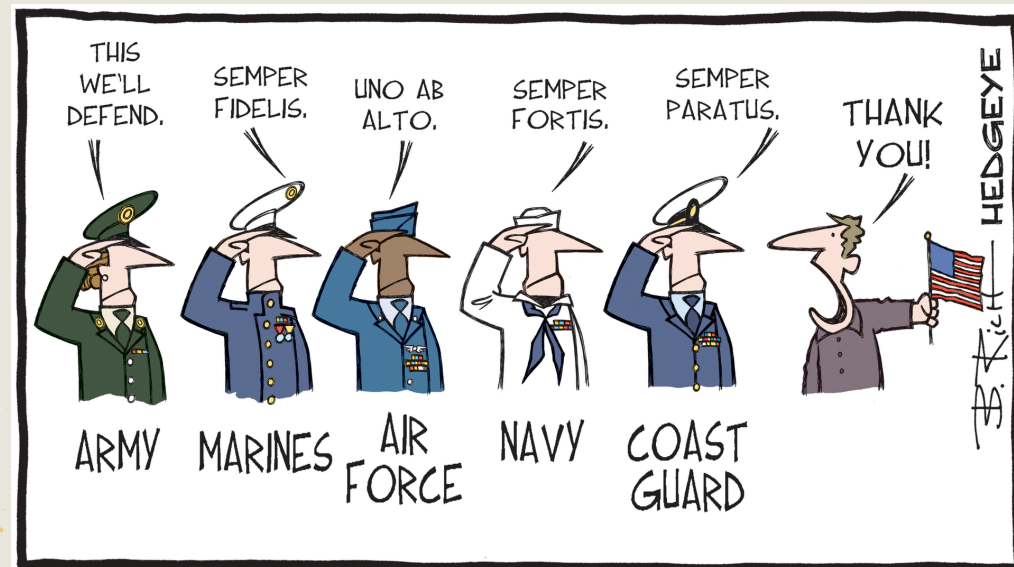
-BOB ADAMS

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMONS HEROES

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ABRAMS, IRWIN “ERNIE” | LERNER, HERB |
| ADAMS, BOB | LERNER, IRVING |
| ANDERSON, BOB | MAYER, DEBORAH |
| BERNSTEIN, MEL | MORAN, DAVID |
| BODAY, GEORGE | NEIDORF, ED |
| CLOSE, DICK | PHILLIPS, JOHN “JACK” |
| CURTISS, ROBERT “BOB” | REGAN III, WILLIAM |
| DERKAZARIAN, ALAN | RICHLIN, IRVING |
| EDGINTON, GEORGE | ROTH, JIM |
| HOWARD, ROBERT “BOB” | SOLOMON, STANLEY “STAN” |
| GALL, LARRY | TAMBOR, CONRAD “WADE” |
| KISTLER, DR. J. PHILIP | VAN WINKLE, PETER |
| KEARNEY, JIM | WASHBURN, BILL |
| KURYS, CHESTER J. | WATT, JOHN |
| LAWRENCE, ELI | WITHEY, RUSSELL |

thank you!

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This day in History

November II, 1918: The guns fell silent as World War I ended. Originally Armistice Day, this date became Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all who served.

Words of Wisdom

“Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul.”
– Michel de Montaigne

Veterans Day Trivia

- 1) What U.S president officially changed Armistice Day to Veteran Day?
- 2) In 1956, Israel invaded Egypt, followed by the UK and France, forcing outside pressure from the United States. This crisis is referred to by what name? It refers to the canal the Western powers were hoping to control.
- 3) What flower is often worn to honor veterans and fallen soldiers?
- 4) Which branch of the U.S Military was established first?
- 5) What is the name of the U.S Navy's official march?



- 6) What year did the Korean War begin?
- 7) What comic Bbook hero debuted in 1941, symbolizing American Patriotism?
- 8) Semper Fidelis, Latin for “always faithful,” was adopted as the motto of which U.S. military service in 1883?
- 9) From 1944 to 1945, the Germans increased their troops surrounding the Ardennes Forest for what World War II battle and major counteroffensive? It gets its name for the rounded swelling of German troops in the region.

ANSWERS ON THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE

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Tunes from the Troops

When the world was at war, music marched right alongside our boys overseas and the folks back home. From swingin’ big bands to sweethearts’ ballads, these tunes kept spirits high and hearts hopeful from coast to coast – and clear across the ocean, too!

"Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy"

A quintessential wartime song, made famous by The Andrews Sisters

"(There'll Be Bluebirds Over) The White Cliffs of Dover"

An iconic British song, famously recorded by both Glenn Miller and Vera Lynn, that yearned for peace.

"Lili Marlene"

This German song, which was also translated into English, was popular with both German and British forces and was used for propaganda

"White Christmas"

Bing Crosby's recording became a hit during the war, resonating with people's nostalgia and desire for home.



Whether on a scratchy record, a radio broadcast, or a soldier’s harmonica, these melodies reminded everyone what they were fighting for – home, hope, and harmony.

Chow Time!

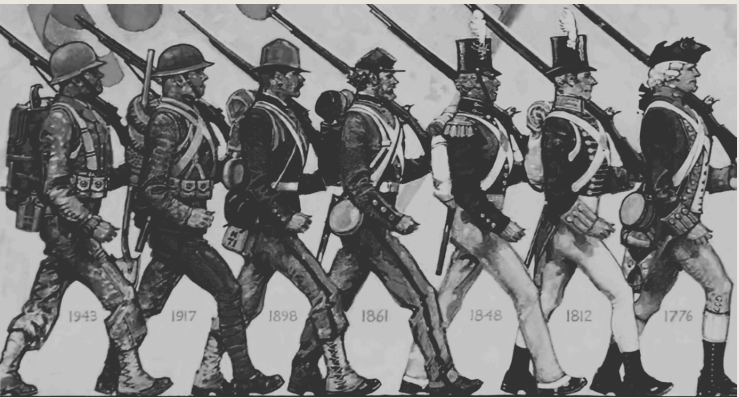
Back in the 1930s, while America kept one eye on the horizon, the U.S. War Department was busy cooking up a way to keep our boys well-fed wherever duty called. The result? A handy little meal-on-the-go known as the C-Ration – a soldier’s best friend when the kitchen was a foxhole.

First issued in 1939, each C-Ration came packed with three cans of meat and vegetables, described by the brass as having “the taste and appearance of a hearty stew.” (Not quite Grandma’s pot roast, but it did the trick!)

To round out the meal, soldiers got three more cans with crackers, instant coffee, and sugar – the simple comforts that brought a touch of home to the front lines. A hot sip of coffee and a bite of something hearty could make even the muddiest morning a little brighter.



Uniforms Through The Ages



From khaki wool to digital camo, military style has marched right alongside history – always neat, sharp, and ready for inspection! While Paris had Coco Chanel, the Army had quartermasters who knew a thing or two about practicality (and a good shine on the boots). Back in the early days, soldiers buttoned into heavy wool uniforms that could stand up to mud, rain, and the occasional foxhole nap. By World War II, the look got an upgrade – crisp olive drab for the boys overseas, smart skirts and shoulder pads for the ladies serving stateside.

Every crease meant business, every patch told a story. Sailors kept things shipshape in their iconic bell-bottom blues, while airmen soared in leather flight jackets that made them the envy of every movie matinee. And let’s not forget the Marines – their dress blues could stop traffic and melt hearts faster than a swing tune on a Saturday night! As the decades rolled on, the fabrics got lighter, the patterns got pixelated, and the helmets got smarter – but the pride behind the uniform never changed. Whether pressed for parade or rumpled from the field, those uniforms weren’t just clothes... they were courage stitched in cotton, honor buttoned down with brass.



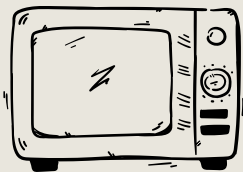
Did you Know?

Camouflage as we know it made its big debut during World War I, when artists – nicknamed “camoufleurs” – were recruited to design patterns that helped soldiers and equipment blend into their surroundings. The idea took root fast, proving that sometimes, disappearing was the most fashionable move on the battlefield!

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“Oops! The Accidental Arsenal of Invention”

War may be grim business, but out of the smoke and sparks have popped some of our handiest peacetime pals. From sticky tape to speedy coffee, these accidental inventions prove that even when the world’s at war, a little ingenuity can sneak through the trenches and march right into our homes!



The Snack That Fought Back

During World War II, a fellow named Percy Spencer was tinkering with radar when-zap!—his candy bar turned gooey in his pocket. Instead of crying over melted chocolate, he cooked up the idea for the microwave. Dinner’s been easier ever since!

Sticky Situations Saved

Soldiers needed something tough to seal their ammo boxes, and out popped duct tape—sticky, strong, and unstoppable. When the boys came home, so did the tape, ready to fix everything from leaky roofs to Grandpa’s favorite lawn chair.

From Chariots to Jeeps

Every war has its wheels, but none stole the show like the Jeep. Built to bounce over battlefields, it rolled right into peacetime suburbia without missing a beat. Nothing says “weekend adventure” like a car that once stormed the beaches!

Coffee in a Hurry

War waits for no percolator, so instant coffee stepped up in World War I. It wasn’t exactly café chic, but it kept the troops alert—and later powered America’s office warriors through their own daily battles.

The Rubber That Wouldn’t Quit

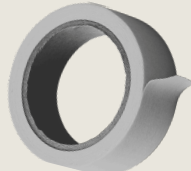
When the world ran short on natural rubber during WWII, scientists cooked up a stretchy substitute. Synthetic rubber kept the wheels turning and the soles bouncing—and it’s still holding the world together, one tire at a time.

Ink That Could Keep Up

Fountain pens and foxholes don’t mix, so clever minds invented the ballpoint pen. Soldiers loved it, secretaries adored it, and the rest of us never looked back. No more ink blots—just smooth sailing on the stationery front!

The Silver Lining of Sabotage

From accidents to aha! moments, war’s wild experiments often marched straight into peacetime life. Turns out, even in the worst of times, ingenuity finds a way to salute the future.



A Proud March Through History!

I775-I783 - The American Revolution

The grand beginning! A band of bold colonists took on the British Empire and won the right to call themselves Americans. Freedom was brand-new, and the ink on the Constitution was barely dry!

I8I2-I8I5 - The War of I8I2

Round two with the Redcoats – Washington burned, the flag still waved, and Francis Scott Key found the words that would become our anthem.

I846-I848 - The Mexican-American War

The young Republic headed west, winning California, Texas, and a stretch of land that carried the stars and stripes clear to the Pacific.

I86I-I865 - The Civil War

A heartbreak at home: brother against brother, North against South. When the smoke cleared, the Union held, and a new birth of freedom took root.

I898 - The Spanish-American War

A short, spirited scrap that put America on the world map. “Remember the Maine!” we cried

– and soon Old Glory waved from Cuba to the Philippines.

I9I7-I9I8 - World War I

The doughboys crossed the Atlantic to make the world “safe for democracy.” They came home heroes, bringing jazz, optimism, and a belief that peace might just last.

I94I-I945 - World War II

From Pearl Harbor to victory, America rallied like never before. Rosie rolled the rivets, G.I. Joe stormed the beaches, and the Greatest Generation earned its name in courage and sacrifice.

I950-I953 - The Korean War

A chilly showdown on the 38th Parallel. The fighting was fierce, but freedom held its ground, and the Stars and Stripes still wave over Seoul today.

I955-I975 - The Vietnam War

A long, difficult chapter in a distant jungle. Brave men and women served with honor through controversy and challenge, returning home to a country still finding its footing.

From the Minutemen of Lexington to the soldiers of Kandahar, one thread runs true: courage, conviction, and a belief that freedom’s light is worth defending. Through every trial, every triumph, America’s heart keeps right on beating – steady, proud, and hopeful as ever.



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Uncle Sam's Curiosity Corner

Step right up, friends, and settle in for a quick peek at some of the quirkiest, cleverest, and downright surprising tidbits from America's military history!

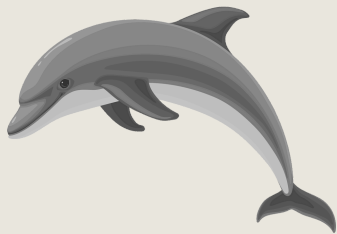
1) The U.S. Army used approximately 1,500 dogs during the Korean War.

2)The Korean War saw the advent of aeronautical, medical and societal change: Helicopters were introduced to transport casualties to field hospitals; jets became the new "standard" for aircraft; leading-edge radio technology allowed better coordination of troop movements; and Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals (MASH) units placed experienced medical personnel closer to the front, improving a wounded Soldier's chance for survival.

3) During WW2, the firebombing of Hamburg, Tokyo and dozens of other raids created hurricane force winds up to 170 mph.

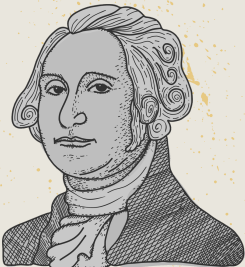
4) The shortest war in U.S. history? The Spanish-American War – it lasted a mere 113 days.

5) During the Vietnam War, The U.S. Navy's team MK 6, which was made up of trained dolphins conducting port protection (as well as their human handlers), deployed to Cam Ranh Bay in 1965.



4) During the Civil War, soldiers sometimes wrote letters home on wallpaper scraps. Talk about making do with what you've got!

5) American Revolution: George Washington's dentures were not made of wood. Instead, they were crafted from materials including hippopotamus ivory, human teeth, and cows' teeth!



Marching Orders: Laugh!

Why is The Commons starting to feel like a military base?

Because there's always a new operation underway!

Why did the vet bring a helmet to bingo night?

Because Bingo night is always action-packed!

Why did the veteran salute Nina in the dining room?

Because her mashed potatoes have more ranks than the Army!

What's Robin's motto in Plant Ops?

"Leave no lightbulb behind!"

What did the veteran say after a ride to the doctor's office with George?

"That was less like a transport... and more like a comedy tour on wheels!"

Why don't we need military recruiters anymore?

Because Megan's already convinced everyone this is the best base in town!



Staff Salutes

"To all our Veterans – thank you for your courage and sacrifice. Your commitment to serve others reminds us that freedom is not free. We are grateful that you chose The Commons as your home and salute you for your service."

- Rey LeBlanc, Executive Director

"To all our military veterans here at The Commons – thank you for your courage, sacrifice, and service. Your dedication helped shape the freedoms we enjoy today. We honor your strength, your sacrifices, and the enduring legacy you've given us all."

-Love, Robin McElligott, Director of Plant Ops

"Your courage paved the path we walk in freedom today. Thank you for a lifetime of service, sacrifice, and strength. On this Veterans Day, we honor not just your past, but your lasting legacy."

-Elyse Golibroda, Programming Director

"We are so grateful for all the residents and their family members who have fought to preserve our freedoms. Many take for granted the liberties that exist in our country, and the families who've given the ultimate sacrifice for our future. We salute those fallen soldiers and their loved ones for creating a country where we can reside in peace and prosperity. We are forever grateful."

-Nina Quirk, Directory of Culinary Services