



Veterans Day

Commemorative Edition – November 11, 2023

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MEd, MA, PhD



Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served



**Presidential
Proclamation**



A Proclamation on National Veterans And Military Families Month, 2023



The poet John Milton once wrote, “They also serve who only stand and wait.” During National Veterans and Military Families Month, we recognize that our military and veteran families answer our Nation’s call to duty, and we recommit to doing right by their service and sacrifice.

For me, the First Lady, and the entire Biden family: It is personal. When our son Beau was deployed to Iraq, we learned what it meant to pray every day for the safe return of someone you love. Our grandkids learned what it meant to have their dad overseas in a warzone instead of at home, tucking them into bed and reading them a story every night. Millions of Americans have had that experience. To all the mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters, spouses and partners, and loved ones who stand alongside our veterans and service members: You are the solid steel spine that bears up under every burden and the courageous heart that rises to every challenge.

Our Nation has only one truly sacred obligation – to prepare those we send into harm’s way and care for them and their families while they are deployed and when they return home. Since the beginning of my Administration, fulfilling that obligation has been my top priority. In June, I signed an Executive Order that establishes the most comprehensive set of administrative actions in our Nation’s history to support the economic security of military and veteran spouses, caregivers, and survivors. It encourages all Federal agencies to do more to retain military spouses through flexible policies, improves the ability for spouses to maintain their employment when moving overseas, allows spouses to seek advice on overseas employment issues through military legal assistance offices for the first time, and improves spouses’ access to quality, dependable, and affordable child care.

Proclamation Continued

Since the beginning of my Administration, I have signed more than 30 bipartisan bills to expand the services and benefits that support our veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors — including the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxin exposed veterans and survivors in over 30 years. We released a national strategy to reduce military and veteran suicide by tackling some of the root causes of this crisis — like addressing financial insecurity by expanding job training opportunities for transitioning service members and veterans and their spouses and increasing funding to prevent and eliminate homelessness. Further, I signed an Executive Order that implemented historic, bipartisan military justice reforms to transform how the military handles sexual assault and domestic violence cases in order to make our military safer and more just. Earlier this year, I directed the Department of Defense to review pay and benefits for our military members, because our Armed Forces and their families deserve a 21st century compensation system that reflects their service and sacrifice. Additionally, the First Lady’s Joining Forces initiative is providing support to military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors by improving economic opportunity for military families, making school transitions easier for military children, and expanding resources to promote health and well-being for this community.

Our fighting force is the greatest in the world — in no small part because, year after year and decade after decade, military and veteran families have had their loved ones’ backs. As a country, we owe it to these families to have their backs. This year — as we celebrate 50 years of an all-volunteer force — may we also recognize the bravery and dedication of our military and veteran families and work to repay the debt of gratitude we owe each one of them.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2023 as National Veterans and Military Families Month. I call upon the people of the United States to honor veterans and military families with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.



Veterans Day History

Veterans Day occurs on November 11 every year in the United States in honor of the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918 that signaled the end of World War I, known as Armistice Day. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975 President Gerald Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11, due to the important historical significance of the date. Veterans Day commemorates veterans of all wars!



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL THOSE WHO SERVED

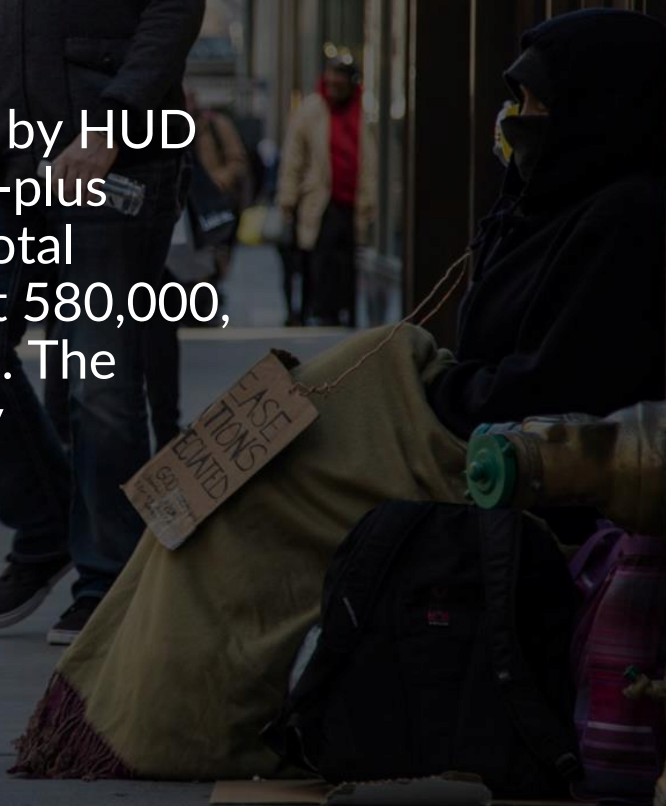
Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.

Veterans Day



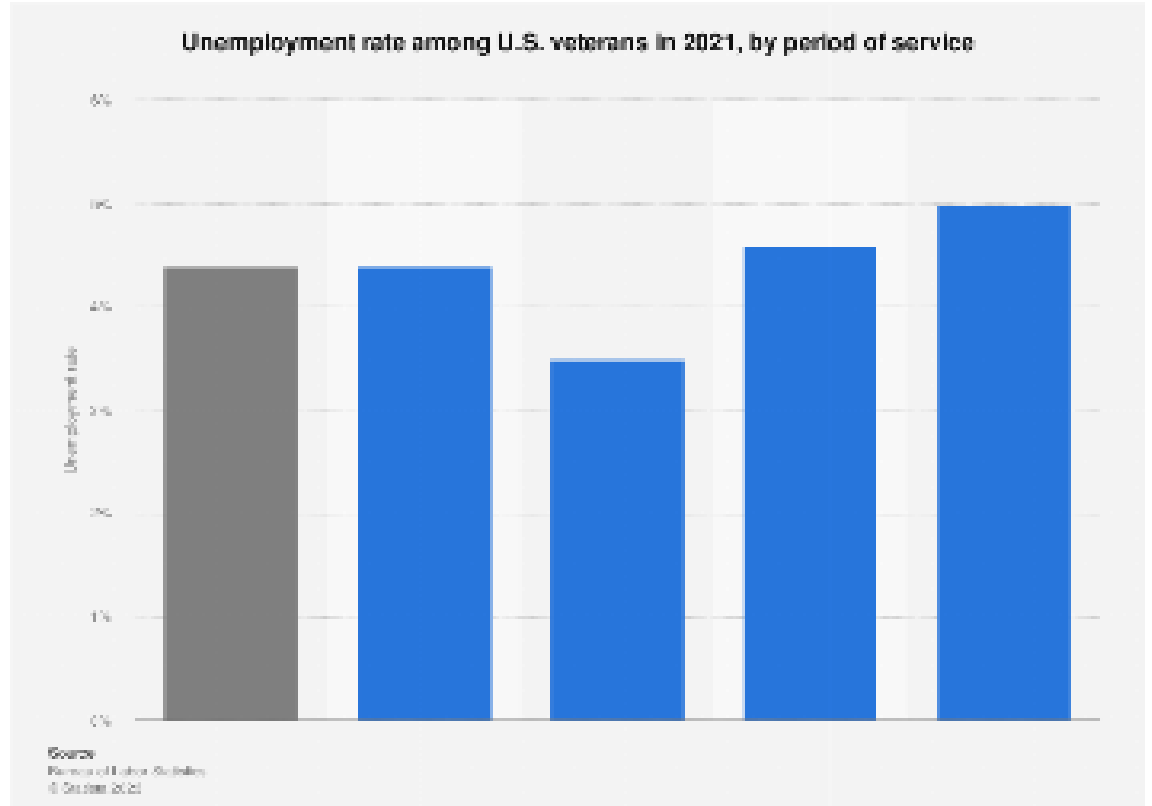
Homeless Veterans

- An annual survey overseen by HUD estimated there were 37,000-plus homeless veterans, out of a total homeless population of about 580,000, each year from 2018 to 2020. The 2021 survey was cut short by pandemic restrictions.





Support our veterans and their families!



Unemployment Rates for Veterans

Mental Health

Veterans' Mental Health



For veterans, **mental health** is a much **bigger impediment** to daily life than physical health.



12.7

Average days per month veterans reported mental health impeding normal activity (compared to 11 for nonveterans)



15.6%

Percentage of veterans diagnosed with a depressive disorder at some point



This is **more than double** the prevalence of depressive disorders in U.S. adults (7.1% overall, according to the *National Institute of Mental Health*).

Source: The CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data for 2019

Veterans Day By The Numbers

- 19.5 million – the approximate number of veterans in the United States. 9 million – the number of veterans over the age of 65. 5.06 million – the number of veterans receiving disability compensation. 2 million – the number of female veterans of those receiving disability compensation.

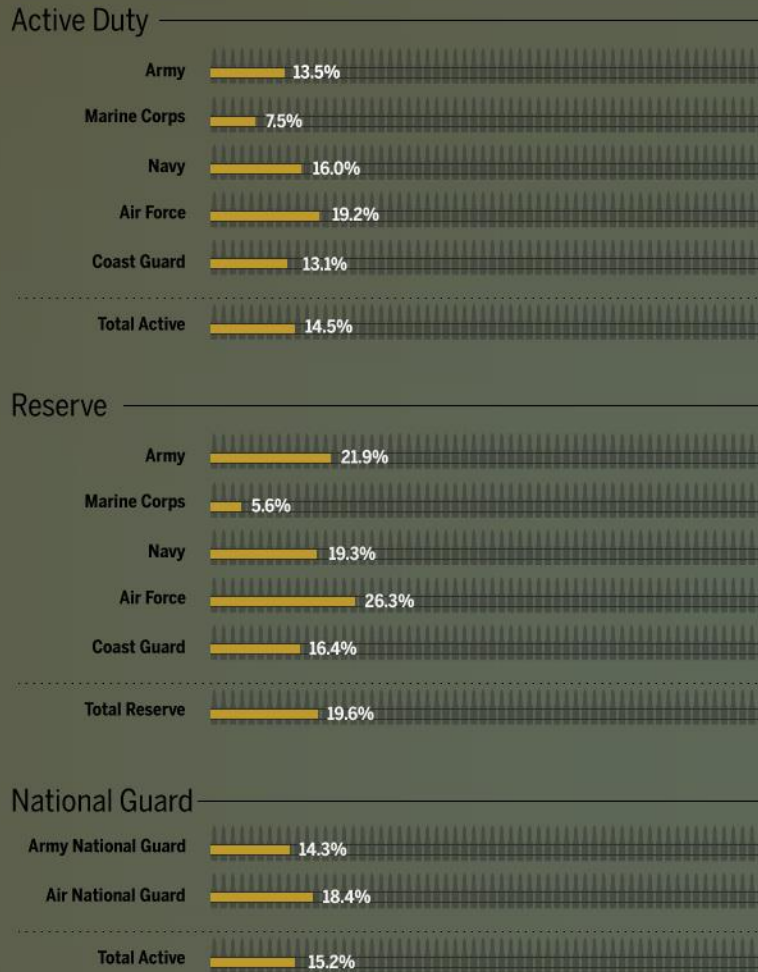


WOMEN of WAR

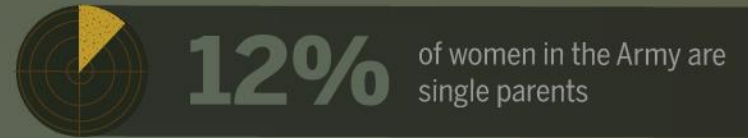
FEMALE SOLDIERS ON THE FRONT LINE

For millennia, the fields of war belonged exclusively to men. But in recent years, tens of thousands of American women have entered the modern warfare arena, where they fight and die alongside their male counterparts. We took a look at women in uniform today—not only where and how they serve, but how they have endured discrimination, parental hardship, and sexual harassment.

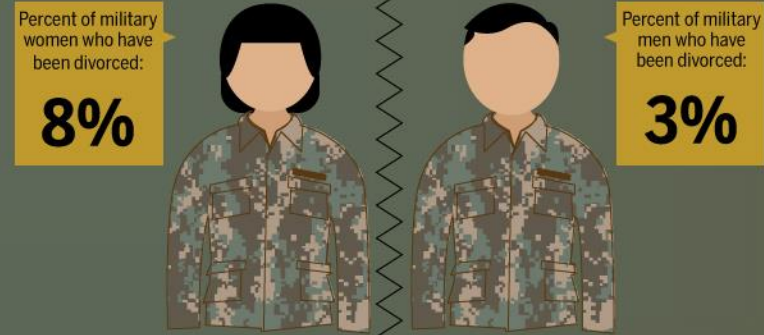
Women Serving in the Military (Percent Women)



Military Moms



Divorce Rate is Higher Among Women in the Military



*The Pentagon does not release data on Reserve and National Guard members, or members who divorced after leaving the military.

The Issue of Sexual Assault

More than 19,000 service members were raped or sexually assaulted in 2010



Of those who experienced unwanted sexual contact... **79%** chose not to report it

“Military women are more likely to be raped by a fellow soldier than killed by enemy fire in Iraq.”

- Jane Harman, former U.S. Congresswoman

Historical Glimpse: Women in Military Conflicts (Number of Women Involved)



OPERATION DESERT STORM

Approximately **41,000** women were deployed to Operation Desert Storm in Iraq, making it the largest single deployment of U.S. military women in history. With the exception of direct combat, they served in all areas of the operation. Two were prisoners of war and five were



As of 2009, more than **750** female soldiers have been killed or wounded in action in either the war in Iraq or

Statistics



Patrol caps will be worn with nametapes embroidered with **spice brown** thread and placed on the back using Velcro or seen on. **Officer rank** will be seen on the front of the hat and centered 1/2 inch above the visor.

T-shirt will be **coyote brown** effective 1 June 2020.

Name and USAF tapes and occupational badges will be embroidered using **spice brown** thread.

Right Sleeve (max. 2 Velcro patches)
The U.S. Flag and unit patches are mandatory upon effective dates (see timeline). **Non-unit entity patches** (e.g. Directorate/AF Element) are authorized/optional. All will be embroidered using the **spice brown** color criteria.

Left Sleeve (max. 2 Velcro patches)
HHQ patches are mandatory and should be centered in the middle of the left sleeve. Exception: **Awarded Joint qualification tabs** (subdued cloth) may be worn above the HHQ patch as a **third patch** (e.g. Army Ranger, Sapper, Air Commando, SERE, etc.).
School graduate patches (e.g. WIC, SAAS) are optional.
Graduated commanders may affix the insignia above the HHQ patch on the left sleeve.
When authorized, **duty identifier tabs** (e.g. Air Advisor, EOD) may be worn. List of approved duty identifier tabs is listed in AFGM to AFI 36-2903.
Authorized list of embroidered **spice brown** color criteria left sleeve patches are listed in the AFGM to AFI 36-2903.

Boots will be **coyote brown** effective 1 June 2020.

(Current as of April 18, 2019)

TIMELINE

- 2019**
 - 1 APR** Expansion of in-store AAFES sales locations continues.
- 2020**
 - 1 JUN** Coyote brown boots mandatory. Coyote brown T-Shirt mandatory. U.S. Flag spice brown color criteria mandatory. Spice brown officer rank mandatory. DLA green socks/coyote brown socks mandatory.
- 2021**
 - 1 APR** OCP Utility Uniform mandatory. All AF patches must be converted to the spice brown color criteria.

BENEFITS

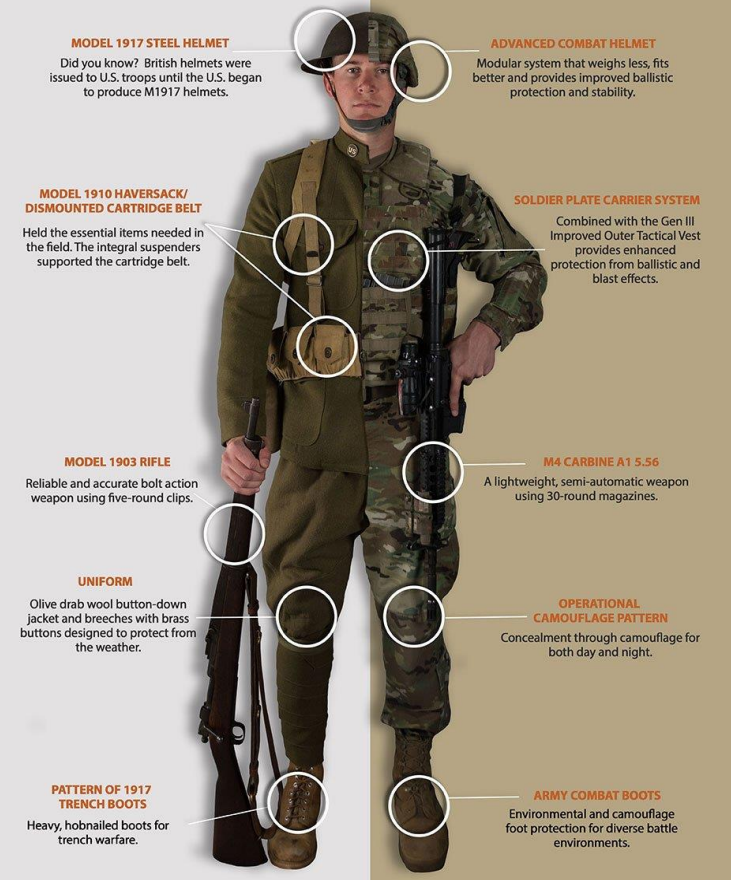
- The OCP works in all climates and across the spectrum of missions we perform.
- Over 100,000 Airmen have been issued and/or are already wearing OCPs. This includes AFGENT, AFSOC and our AFGSC Defenders.
- The OCP will bring back Air Force heraldry with unit patches.
- The OCP celebrates our joint warfighting excellence and close ties with the Army.

AIR FORCE OCP UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Further official wear guidance will be available soon in AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance



THE U.S. ARMY UNIFORM THEN & NOW



MODEL 1917 STEEL HELMET
Did you know? British helmets were issued to U.S. troops until the U.S. began to produce M1917 helmets.

ADVANCED COMBAT HELMET
Modular system that weighs less, fits better and provides improved ballistic protection and stability.

MODEL 1910 HAVERSACK/DISMOUNTED CARTRIDGE BELT
Held the essential items needed in the field. The integral suspenders supported the cartridge belt.

SOLDIER PLATE CARRIER SYSTEM
Combined with the Gen III Improved Outer Tactical Vest provides enhanced protection from ballistic and blast effects.

MODEL 1903 RIFLE
Reliable and accurate bolt action weapon using five-round clips.

M4 CARBINE A1 5.56
A lightweight, semi-automatic weapon using 30-round magazines.

UNIFORM
Olive drab wool button-down jacket and breeches with brass buttons designed to protect from the weather.

OPERATIONAL CAMOUFLAGE PATTERN
Concealment through camouflage for both day and night.

PATTERN OF 1917 TRENCH BOOTS
Heavy, hobnailed boots for trench warfare.

ARMY COMBAT BOOTS
Environmental and camouflage foot protection for diverse battle environments.



Thank you

- Freedom isn't free, and it's the men and women in uniform that pay the price for us all. Thank you today and every day that we enjoy liberty and justice for all!



Projected Military Pay Chart

PROJECTED ACTIVE DUTY PAY WITH 4.6% INCREASE

YEARS OF SERVICE

PAY GRADE	Over 4 Service	Over 6 Service	Over 8 Service	Over 10 Service	Over 12 Service
0-8	12,170.73	12,564.70	12,834.42	12,908.16	13,238.28
0-7	10,113.15	10,582.91	10,800.37	10,973.27	11,286.13
0-6	7,669.27	8,425.22	8,978.13	8,978.13	9,012.65
0-5	6,393.36	7,202.02	7,700.34	7,794.16	8,105.77
0-4	5,516.29	6,385.20	6,811.97	6,906.42	7,301.81
0-3	4,849.78	5,497.78	5,933.33	6,469.93	6,780.28
0-2	4,190.80	4,772.58	5,496.83	5,682.60	5,799.34
0-1	3,637.26	3,786.00	4,576.77	4,576.77	4,576.77

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS OF ENLISTED SERVICE

PAY GRADE	Over 4 Service	Over 6 Service	Over 8 Service	Over 10 Service	Over 12 Service
03-E	6,469.94	6,780.29	7,120.29	7,340.10	7,701.59
02-E	5,682.63	5,789.95	5,983.96	6,295.46	6,536.77
01-E	4,576.92	4,887.26	5,067.74	5,252.70	5,433.76



2022 VA Disability Compensation Rates

You may receive a VA disability rating of 0%. This means you won't be eligible for VA disability compensation as a cash benefit. But you may be eligible for other benefits, such as ongoing VA health care.



Disability Rating	Base Disability Compensation Rate	Disability Rating	Base Disability Compensation Rate
10%	\$151.64	60%	\$1,214.02
20%	\$301.74	70%	\$1,529.94
30%	\$467.38	80%	\$1,778.52
40%	\$673.28	90%	\$1,998.52
50%	\$958.43	100%	\$3,332.06

Note: If your direct deposit is going into an account with USAA or the Navy Federal Credit Union, you may receive credit for your direct deposit a day or two early in any particular month. Contact these financial institutions for details.





FY 2023
Federal Discretionary
Budget Request

\$1.598T



Top Departments (\$B)	
AIR FORCE	234
NAVY	231
ARMY	177
VA	135
DEFENSE	131
HHS	127
EDUC	88
HUD	72
STATE	60
DHS	57
DOE	48
DOJ	38
USDA	29
DOT	27
NASA	26

Military Spending



VETERAN'S DAY

**“AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE,
WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT
THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION
IS NOT TO UTTER WORDS,
BUT TO LIVE BY THEM.”
- JOHN F. KENNEDY**



Current PCI Veterans



Rudy Pacheco



Lutene Nunn



Erma Marshall

PCI Veterans

Current PCI Veteran Employees

*Lutene Nunn, Retired Veteran US Air Force-Timberhill
ECC*

*Rudy Pacheco, US Marine Corps-
Facilities/Transportation Supervisor*

Erma Marshall, US Army-George Gervin ECC



Family Members of Current PCI Employees

Ernest S. Small- Retired Veteran US Air Force- Husband of Dr. Sharon Small

Porter C. Murphy, Jr- US Army- Brother of Dr. Sharon Small

Jesse J. Harbert III- Retired US Air Force Reserves- Brother-in-law of Dr. Sharon Small

Johnnie Thomas (deceased)- US Air Force- Brother-in-law of Dr. Sharon Small

James E. Fritz-(deceased)- US Army- Husband of Adelina Fritz

John E. Fritz- Retired US Army- Son of Adelina Fritz

Brandon Fritz, Former US Air Force- Grandson of Adelina Fritz

Fred Balderrama – Retired US Army – Uncle of Debra Bedoy

Aulio Marroquin – Retired US Army – Brother-in-law of Debra Bedoy

Joe Piña – Retired US Army – Brother-in-law of Debra Bedoy

Steven Balderrama – Retired US Army – Cousin of Debra Bedoy

Paul Michael Zertuche – Retired US Army – Nephew of Debra Bedoy

Jaime Castillo – Retired US Army – Uncle of Debra Bedoy

Paul Michael Zertuche Jr. – Active Duty Air Force – Great Nephew of Debra Bedoy

Edmund Gonzalez – Active Duty US Air Force– Nephew of Debra Bedoy

Marc Anthony Cisneros, Former US Marine Corps – Godson of Debra Bedoy

Juan Magallanez (deceased) – US Army – Cousin of Debra Bedoy

Antonio Romero (deceased) – US Army – Uncle of Debra Bedoy

David Castillo (deceased) – US Army – Uncle of Debra Bedoy

Pete Perez (deceased) – US Army – Uncle of Debra Bedoy

Inez Perez (deceased) – US Army – Uncle of Debra Bedoy

Joe Perez (deceased) – US Army – Uncle of Debra Bedoy

*Ryan James Valdez – Active Duty US Army– Nephew of Liz Rodriguez
Edward River Jr., Veteran US Marine – Nephew of Liz Rodriguez
Andres Lozano, Veteran US Army – Nephew of Liz Rodriguez
Joe Uribe, Veteran US Marine – Cousin of Liz Rodriguez
Rudy Martinez, Veteran US Marine – Cousin of Liz Rodriguez
Joe Zamora – Retired US Army/Green Beret – Cousin of Liz Rodriguez
Maria Zamora – Retired US Navy – Cousin of Liz Rodriguez
George Uribe (deceased)–US Marine Vietnam, Purple Heart –Uncle of Liz Rodriguez
Santos Rodriguez (deceased) – US Navy WWII– Father-in-law of Liz Rodriguez*

*Jonathan Muñoz – US Marine Corps – Nephew of Diana Vogt
Joseph Muñoz – US Navy – Nephew of Diana Vogt*

*Joel Leija- Retired Veteran US Army - Husband of Sylvia Leija
Isela Hernandez- Active Duty Army Reserves - Niece of Janie Martinez
Darrin Martinez – Active Duty Marine Corps - Son of Janie Martinez
Ariel Nicole Spear - Active Duty US Army - Daughter of Janie Martinez
Colton Spear - Active Duty Cavalry Scout - Son in Law of Janie Martinez*

*Wade Ellison - Retired Veteran US Air Force – Husband of Monica Ellison
Richard Petty – Retired Veteran US Army – Father of Monica Ellison*

Lewis E White - Veteran US Army - Father of Erma Marshall
Paul Carter - Veteran US Army Vietnam - Brother of Erma Marshall
Phillip Carter - Retired Veteran US Marine Corps - Brother of Erma Marshall
James Carter - Veteran US Air Force - Brother of Erma Marshall
Wilton Allison - Veteran US Army - Brother of Erma Marshall
Necal Manual - Veteran US Army - Uncle of Erma Marshall
Abraham Marshall - Retired Veteran US Army - Husband of Erma Marshall

Charles H. Pritchard - US Army - Father of Mary Doxie
Charles Pritchard - US Army - Brother of Mary Doxie
Melvin Pritchard - US Army - Brother of Mary Doxie
Eddie Doxie - US Army-Father-in Law of Mary Doxie
Elton Doxie - US Army - Nephew of Mary Doxie

Alfredo V. Charles – US Army – Father of Lydia Almares

Hervey Vela – US Marine Corps – Brother-in-law of Lydia Almares
MSGT Michael Stanley – US Air Force – Nephew of Lydia Almares

David Smith - Veteran US Army - Husband of Megan Smith
Mark Eavey - Retired Veteran US Army - Father of Megan Smith

**2023
Veterans Day
Retail/Food
Discounts:**

**“VALOR IS STABILITY, NOT OF LEGS &
ARMS, BUT OF COURAGE & THE SOUL”**

- Michel De Montaigne



7-eleven

www.7-eleven.com

This convenience store chain is offering a free coffee of any size to all Veterans on Veterans Day.

Academy Sports + Outdoors

<https://www.academy.com/>

Veterans, active-duty military members, and their families can receive 10 percent off their entire purchase in-store and online from October 27 through November 11.

Adidas

www.adidas.com

Adidas is offering a 30 percent discount to active military duty members, Veterans, and their families on Veterans Day.

Amazon

www.amazon.com

Amazon is offering a \$40 discount on Prime membership for all Veterans and active military from November 6 to November 11.

AMC Theatres

<https://www.amctheatres.com/>

AMC is offering all active-duty military and Veterans a free large popcorn with their movie on Veterans Day.

Applebee's

www.applebees.com

Continuing their annual tradition, Applebee's will offer a free meal to Veterans and active-duty military members from a special Veterans Day menu.

AT&T

www.att.com

This popular telecommunications service offers Veterans, active duty service members, and their families a 25 percent discount on select plans.

Best Buy

<https://www.bestbuy.com/>

Veterans and active military personnel get a special 10 percent discount on in-store purchases on Veterans Day.

BJ's Restaurant

www.bjsrestaurants.com

BJ's Restaurant is giving away a free entrée up to \$14.95 and a free Dr. Pepper beverage to all military members on Veterans Day.

Bob Evans

www.bobevans.com

Bob Evans is offering a free meal from a special menu to Veterans and active duty military personnel on Veterans Day.

Bonefish Grill

www.bonefishgrill.com

Bonefish Grill is offering a Heroes Discount, which gives a 10 percent off all service members, Veterans, and first responders' checks all year long.

Buffalo Wild Wings

www.buffalowildwings.com

Buffalo Wild Wings is offering a free order of 10 boneless wings and fries to Veterans and active-duty military personnel.

Carrabba's Italian Grill

www.carrabbas.com

Carrabba's Italian Grill is offering all Veterans, active military, police officers, and firefighters a 10 percent discount on their entire check all year round.

Chili's Grill & Bar

www.chilis.com

Chili's Grill & Bar Chili's is offering a free meal from a select menu to all Veterans and active military members on Veterans Day.

Cracker Barrel

www.crackerbarrel.com

Cracker Barrel is offering military Veterans a complimentary slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola Cake or a Pumpkin Pie Latte on Veterans Day.

Dell

www.dell.com

Dell is honoring Veterans and active-duty military by offering a special 15 percent discount on selected PCs and electronics this Veterans Day.

Denny's

www.dennys.com

Denny's is offering a complimentary Build Your Own Grand Slam breakfast to all Veterans and military personnel on Veterans Day from 5 a.m. to noon.

Dollar General

www.dollargeneral.com

Dollar General is offering an 11 percent discount on in-store and online purchases for all Veterans, active-duty military, members of the National Guard & Reserve, and their immediate family members.

Dunkin' Donuts

www.dunkindonuts.com

Dunkin' Donuts is offering a free donut to Veterans and active-duty military on Veterans Day.

Famous Dave's

www.famousdaves.com

Famous Dave's is giving a free 2 Meat Salute – a choice of two different types of meat served with a cornbread muffin and a side – to all former and current military personnel on Veterans Day.

Foot Locker

www.footlocker.com

Foot Locker is offering a 15 percent discount to all active-duty military personnel, military Veterans, national guard, and reserve service members.

Ford

www.ford.com

Ford is offering a \$500 Bonus Cash Offer for Veterans and active military on eligible Ford or Lincoln vehicles.

Friendly's

www.friendlys.com

Friendly's is honoring Veterans and active military by offering a free All-American meal for lunch or dinner, which includes the All-American Burger, served with a side of fries and a drink on Veterans Day.

Golden Corral

<https://www.goldencorral.com/>

Golden Corral is offering a free dinner and beverage to any person who has ever served in the U.S. military on November 11.

Goodyear Auto Service

www.goodyearautoservice.com

Goodyear Auto Service is offering free car care checks and free tire installation to all active-duty military and Veterans from November 8 through November 16.

Great Clips

www.greatclips.com

On Veterans Day, Veterans and current military members can visit a Great Clips salon to receive either a free haircut or a free haircut card to use at a later date.

Home Depot

www.homedepot.com

Home Depot is offering a 10 percent discount to all Veterans-on-Veterans Day.

IHOP

www.ihop.com

IHOP is offering a free stack of Red, White, & Blue pancakes to Veterans and active-duty military on Veterans Day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Joann Fabrics

www.joann.com

Joann Fabrics offers a 15 percent discount year-round to all military personnel, Veterans, and their families.

Kohl's

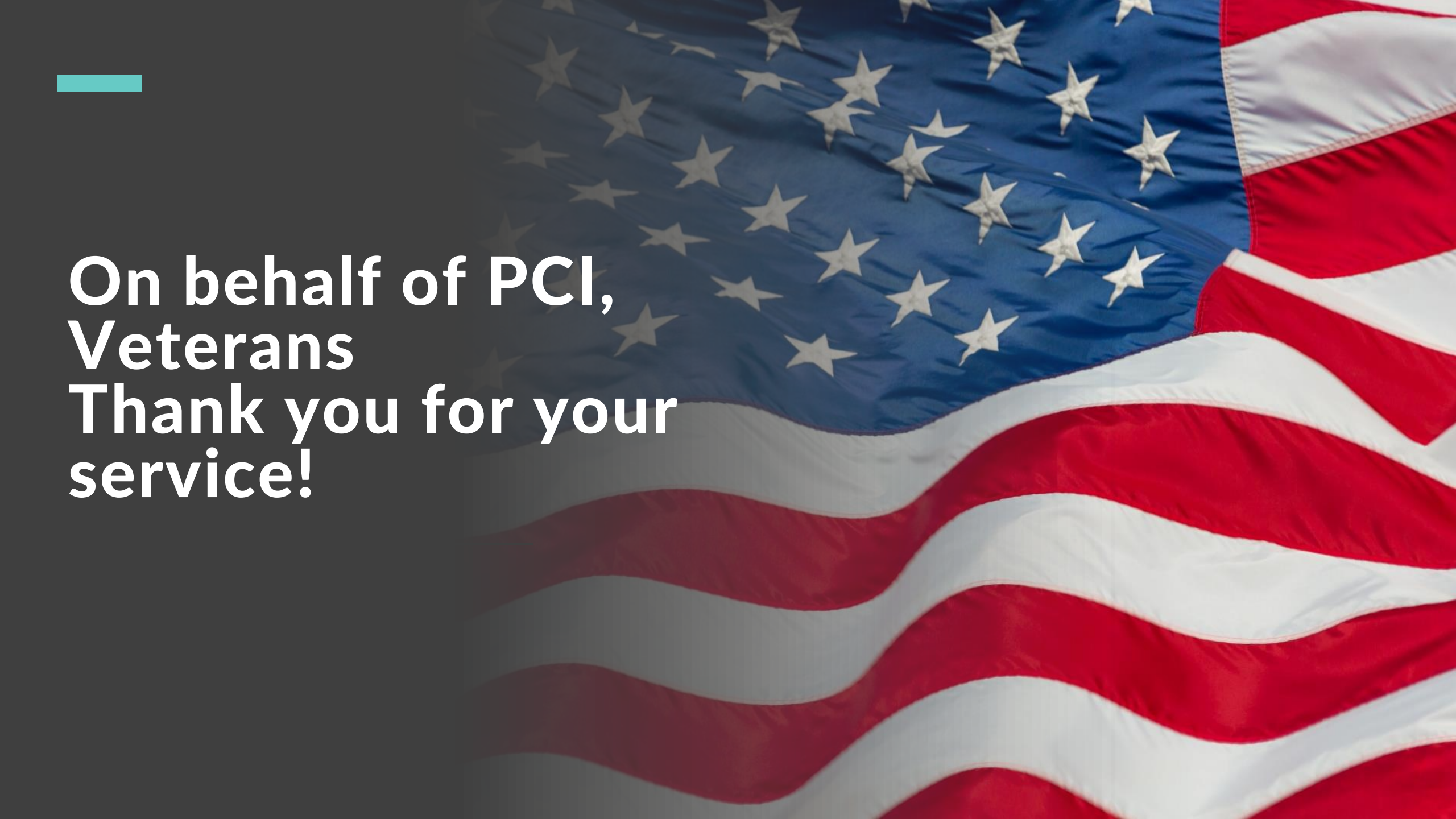
www.kohls.com

Kohl's is doubling their Military Monday discount for Veterans Day to give active military, Veterans, and their families a 30 percent discount.

Little Caesars

www.littlecaesars.com

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Veterans Day, Little Caesars is giving all United States Armed Forces Veterans and active military a free HOT-N-READY Lunch Combo.

A close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail. The flag is waving, creating a sense of movement. The colors are vibrant, with a deep blue field for the stars and bright red and white stripes.

**On behalf of PCI,
Veterans
Thank you for your
service!**