





## Appendix C: (cont.) Military-Connected Holidays and Observances

### **April 15**                      **Purple Up! for Military Kids Day**

Recognizes some of the military's most unsung heroes – their children. The day encourages everyone to wear purple which is the color representing all branches of the military and showing unity with each other. This is in conjunction with April as Month of the Military Child.

### **April 23**                      **Army Reserve Birthday**

## **MAY**

### **May 1**                          **Silver Star Service Banner Day**

Recognize those who have received The Silver Star Medal (the third-highest military decoration) but not exclusively dedicated to it. More broadly, this day pays respect to service members who have been affected by combat.

### **May, Friday before Mother's Day**    **National Military Spouse Appreciation Day**

Acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops.

### **May 13**                      **Children of Fallen Patriots Day**

Honoring the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom and raise awareness of the sacrifices and struggles they must endure. May 13 was selected due to it being the day Arlington National Cemetery was established in 1864.

### **May, Third Saturday**            **Armed Forces Day**

Dedicated to pay special tribute to the men and women who are currently serving in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

### **May, Last Monday**            **Memorial Day**

Commemorate all who have died in military service for the United States.

## **JUNE**

### **June 14**                      **Flag Day**

Commemorate the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States on June 14, 1777 by the Continental Congress.

### **June 14**                      **Army Birthday**

### **June 23**                      **Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday**

### **June 27**                      **National PTSD Awareness Day**

To raise public awareness about issues related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. A tribute to North Dakota National Guard member, Staff Sergeant Joe Biel, who took his life following two tours in Iraq. His birthday was June 27th. This is in conjunction with June as National PTSD Awareness month.

## **JULY**

### **July 4**                          **Independence Day**

On July 4th, 1776 the United States laid down its claim to be a free and independent nation by adopting the Declaration of Independence.



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### **July 25 National Hire a Veteran Day**

Inspire employers to recruit and hire veterans by recognizing the unique skills and values that these former military individuals bring to the workforce.

### **July 29 Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary (Birthday)**

Authorized in 1775 by the Continental Congress, this day reaffirms the Army Chaplain Corps' commitment to helping, mentoring, counseling, and teaching soldiers.

## **AUGUST**

### **August 4 Coast Guard Birthday**

### **August 7 National Purple Heart Day**

First observed in 2014, this day is a time for Americans to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice.

### **August 16 National Airborne Day**

Honors the nation's airborne forces and celebrates the accomplishments of Army parachute tradition.

### **August 14 National Navajo Code Talkers Day**

Honors the contributions of Native Americans during World War II, as well as recognizing the evolution of U.S. code related to Native American languages and the participation of First Nations tribe members in U.S. military efforts from many conflicts.

### **August 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday**

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (Patriot Day)**

Remembering those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.

### **September 18 Air Force (USAF) Birthday**

### **September 18 Air National Guard Birthday**

These "Citizen Airman" became a reserve component of the U.S. Air Force on September 18, 1947.

### **September, Third Friday National POW/MIA Recognition Day**

Remembering those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

### **September, Last Sunday Gold Star Mother's (and Family's) Day**

Began in 1936, this day recognizes and honors the mothers (and families) of our nation's fallen service members.

### **September 29 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Day**

Founded on this day in 1899, this nationwide veteran service organization focuses on lobbying, awareness raising, and outreach.



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### **OCTOBER**

#### **October 13 U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday**

Recognizes the 1775 anniversary of the historical formation of the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. This day celebrates the origins and history of the U.S. Navy.

#### **October 26 National Day of the Deployed**

Honoring our deployed troops and their families for their bravery and the sacrifices they are making for our country.

### **NOVEMBER**

#### **November 10 Marine Corps Birthday**

#### **November 11 Veterans Day**

This day evolved from the anniversary of Armistice Day, which ended the World War I. It has evolved into a day set aside to thank military veterans for their service.

### **DECEMBER**

#### **December 1 Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday**

#### **December 13 National Guard Birthday**

These "Citizen Soldiers" have been active since 1636, originally as colonial militia.

#### **December, Saturday- mid month National Wreaths Across America**

Dedicated to remembering the sacrifices veterans have made in wars since the American Revolution. An annual tribute by laying wreaths at veteran's cemeteries across the nation.

#### **December 20 Space Force Birthday**

### **MILITARY MONTHS**

#### **April Month of the Military Child**

Recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience. Former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child as a Department of Defense-wide commemoration in 1986.

#### **May National Military Appreciation Month**

Recognize and show appreciation to the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

#### **May Month of the Military Caregiver**

Paying tribute to the people who care for more than two million veterans is an important part of supporting troops and military families.

#### **June National PTSD Awareness Month**

Designated in 2014, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder month is intended to raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment.



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### **November**

#### **National Veterans and Military Family Month**

Annual Presidential Proclamation, beginning in 1996, to honor and celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of the families of the U.S. Armed Forces.

### **November**

#### **Warrior Care Month**

Raises awareness of the non-medical needs and lives of wounded warriors.

### **OTHER**

#### **Every Friday**

#### **Red Shirt Friday**

Remembering Everyone Deployed (RED). Wear a red shirt on Friday to show support of our deployed service men and women.