

## **Appendix C:**

# Military-Connected Holidays and Observances

Celebrate the armed forces birthdays, special occasions, and events by honoring those who have sacrificed both at home and abroad. There are many kinds of celebrations or remembrances to pay respect to the military that could occur in a collegiate environment and that would also add to the cultural experience. However, the dates below do not include specific days that occurred during a time of war or national crisis such as June 6, D-Day or December 7, Pearl Harbor.

#### **FEBRUARY**

#### February 3 Four Chaplains Day

Honoring the four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save others when the troop ship USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.

#### February 4 United Service Organization (USO) Birthday

Founded in 1941, the USO has been a fixture in military life for more than seven decades by providing support services as well as entertainment.

February 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

**MARCH** 

March 3 Navy Reserve Birthday

March 5 Seabee Birthday

#### March 13 K9 Veterans Day

Creation of the United States K9 Corps on March 13, 1942, dogs were officially adopted into U.S. military ranks during WWII. A day to honor their service.

# March 15 American Legion Birthday

A nationwide veteran service organization that offers a large number of local programs as well as national efforts to support wounded warriors and their families. The organizations first meeting was March 15, 1919.

#### March 25 National Medal of Honor Day

Remembering the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor whose heroism and sacrifice have earned them this highest of military honors.

## March 29 National Vietnam Veterans Day

Show honor and respect to our Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

#### **APRIL**

#### April 5 Gold Star Spouses Day

Recognizes the sacrifices of Gold Star spouses who are the surviving loved ones of military members who lost their lives in the line of duty. Originally known as Gold Star Wives Day.

## April 14 Air Force Reserve Birthday



# 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.

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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.



## Military-Connected Holidays and Observances

## 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.



# Military-Connected Holidays and Observances

## **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.



# Military-Connected Holidays and Observances

# 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.