Veterans Day



By Dr. R. Pletsch

I know it is a little late, but I hope you thanked a Veteran this week for his or her service and a prayer for those who have helped in the past to keep our freedom these 250 years.

A short history of this holiday celebrated November 11th started in remembrance of the day the Armistice ending World War I in 1918. On 11-11 at 11 a.m. this is the reason many ceremonies coincide with 11 a.m. with a moment of silence and often Taps. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Armistice Day basically honoring all who served in World War I. In 1938, Congress made it a legal federal holiday.

The world went through World War II, and the Korean War and in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day to show gratitude for all the men and women who had served our country in war or peace. There was a short time it was moved to a Monday, but many realized 11-11 at 11 a.m. had historical significance and it returned to its present date.

In this community, we were honored to have a local service at the William McKinley American Legion Post 231 at 35th and Damen, while a city celebration occurred at Soldier Field. Both programs were an opportunity to express your thanks.

Despite many politicians that are anti-military, or even pacifists, that have led protests and riots, without the military they would probably speak German or Russian or Chinese or maybe even their family wasn't able to get to the US.

It is sometimes necessary to understand that in December of 1941 the military at Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, Guam and many other places had joined the military during peace. So for those that thank God for these men and women, please remember those who still serve today and are still in harm's way.