

LA MESA



Rotary Club of West El Paso

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ALL ABOUT VETERANS DAY

By Wes Schotten, La Mesa Editor

Veterans Day – it did in fact begin on November 11th but long ago in 1918 when the Treaty of Versailles was signed between the allies and Germany that ended what was then called “The Great War”. In 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11th as “Armistice Day”. Some of us older folks remember when as youngsters the WW I vets were still plentiful among us and still



called it Armistice Day; but in 1954 President Eisenhower officially changed the name to Veterans Day to honor the millions of Korean Conflict and WW II veterans that now populated the nation.

Veteran's Day has a strong connection to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. In 1921, Congress passed legislation approving the establishment of a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. November 11th was chosen for the date of the ceremony. Accordingly in 1921, Congress declared November 11, 1921 a legal Federal holiday to honor all those who participated in the “Great War”. In later years, unknowns from WW II, and Korea were added. Although Congress authorized the burial of a Vietnam unknown at the tomb, this did not happen until 1984. With improvements DNA technology however, in 1998, the Vietnam unknown soldier was identified as Michael Blassie, a 24-year-old Air Force pilot who was shot down in May of 1972 near the Cambodian border. His body was disinterred and reburied by his family in St. Louis, Missouri.

Red poppies are considered the “flower of remembrance” for all those veterans who gave their lives for their country – years ago, many wore a red poppy in their lapel to commemorate the fallen veterans, a practice that has gone by the way side.

The US Census tells us about the state of our veterans on Veterans Day 2007:

- 23.7 million - the number of veterans living in the US in 2006; 6.1 million of these had a disability.

- 1.7 million of these living veterans were women; 2.4 million were African American and 1.1 million are Hispanic
- “3” – the total documented number of living WW I veterans as of October 2, 2007
- Texas has 1.7 million living veterans
- 78,000 living veterans served during WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War
- In 2004, 74% of living veterans voted as compared to 63 percent of non-veterans in the general population.
- 5.9% of veterans lived in poverty as of 2006; the rate for non-veterans is 12.3%.

Much as our Club helps our community celebrate the 4th of July with our annual parade, other Rotary Clubs around the country organize Veterans Day parades and other events to commemorate the date.

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow/Between the crosses, row on row." This Veterans Day, please take a moment to thank a veteran for his or her service to our country ...

eCLUB ONE MAKE UPS

eClub make up procedures have been featured in La Mesa in the past – for those who want to “go direct”, see this link – it will take you direct to eClub:<http://www.rotaryclubone.org/>

An eClub make up will take 30 minutes and can be done from your computer 24/7 and 365 days a year. You can specify that your eClub make up notifications be emailed directly by eClub to our Club secretary, Pat Brower at tpbrower@sbcglobal.net who will get your makeup logged onto your Club attendance record. Easy and convenient!

West El Paso Rotary Upcoming Programs

- ✓ **November 12th - Special Veteran's Day Program – featuring 101st Airborne WWII Veterans, “Beamey” Beamesderfer and Angel Romero**
- ✓ **November 19th – District Governor Jackie Morgan**
- ✓ **November 26th – El Paso Youth Chorale Society**

Rotary Websites

Rotary Club of West El Paso
www.rotaryweselpaso.org

Rotary District 5520
www.rotary5520.org

Rotary International
www.rotary.org

eClubOne
<http://www.rotaryclubone.org>

The 4-Way Test

Members of Rotary use a simple test to guide their actions in life. Here it is:

“The 4-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

1st Is it the TRUTH?

2nd Is it FAIR to all concerned?

3rd Will it build

GOODWILL and BETTER

FRIENDSHIPS?

4TH Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”



Holiday Party 2007 Date Set

It's not too early for us to mark our holiday season calendar for December 13, 2007 – The Club Holiday Party will be held that evening at Club member Gerri Wootten's home, beginning at 6:30 PM. Ticket are \$15 per person and need to be purchased in advance.

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST EL PASO

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR Wes Schotten

La Mesa is published by the Rotary Club of West El Paso, Inc.

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