



5 VETERANS DAY ILLUSTRATIONS

www.AwakeAmericaOnline.org

1.) Patriots in the Pulpit

Pastor Jonas Clark - Lexington, MA (Lexington and Concord Battle)

“It would not be beyond the truth to assert that there was no person at that time and in that vicinity,-not only no clergyman but no other person of whatever calling or profession, who took a firmer stand for the liberties of the country, or was more ready to perform the duties and endure the sacrifices of a patriot, than the minister of Lexington.”

“When the struggle actually commenced, the people were ready for it, thoroughly acquainted with the reasons on which the duty of resistance was founded, and prepared to discharge the duty at very hazard. No population within the compass of the Colonies were better prepared for the events of the 19th of April, than the people of Lexington; no people to whom the events of that day could more safely have been entrusted; none more worthy of the duties that fell to their lot; or who better deserved the honours which have followed the faithful performance of them. No single individual probably did so much to educate the people up to that point of intelligence, firmness, and courage, as their honoured and beloved pastor.”

Link for source: <https://www.theamericanview.com/patriots-in-the-pulpit-series-jonas-clark/>



2.) Veterans Day: History and Legacy

In 1938 Congress passed a law, 52 Stat. 351 making Armistice Day a legal holiday, dedicated to world peace. This law was amended in 1954, after World War II and the Korean War to honor veterans from all wars. In 1968 an attempt was made to celebrate Veterans Day on the last Monday in October – thereby establishing four National holidays on Mondays but the importance of the actual date and its link to a specific historic event led in 1975 to the passage of Pub. L. 94-97, currently codified at 5 U.S.C. 6103 which re-designated November 11th as Veterans Day.

Since the 1950s, presidents have regularly issued proclamations reminding us of this holiday and the importance of our veterans’ service in protecting and defending the United States. Although the war to end all wars has faded in public memory, the service of our veterans should not.

Link for source: <https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2013/11/armistice-dayveterans-day/?loclr=blogtea>



3.) Experiencing War: Willing to Die

A top-notch student, a respectful son, and a loyal brother to his young siblings, Denton Crocker, Jr. was also a student of history and obsessed with the war in Southeast Asia. In the fall of 1964, this high school senior ran away from home to try to enlist in the Army, knowing his parents preferred he go to college before serving his country. He eventually got his wish and became an infantryman in the jungles of Vietnam. His mother’s moving memoir of her son’s life and ultimate sacrifice attests to his idealism and sense of honor.

“I still believe that individual freedom is the most important thing in the world, and I am willing to die defending that idea.”

Link for source:

Article – <http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.11174/>

Image of Letter – <http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp-stories/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.11174/pageturner?ID=pm0001001&page=17&submit.x=8&submit.y=12>



4.) Ronald Reagan on Veterans Day

Proclamation 5534 -- Veterans Day, 1986

September 23, 1986

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Veterans Day gives all Americans a special opportunity to pay tribute to all those men and women who, throughout our history, have left their homes and loved ones to serve their country.

Their willingness to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, even their lives, in defense of our democratic principles has given our great country the security we enjoy today. From Valley Forge to Vietnam, through war and peace, valiant, patriotic Americans have answered the call, serving with honor and fidelity.

On this special day, our hearts and thoughts turn to all the Nation's veterans. Let us reflect on the great achievements of those whose sacrifices preserved our freedom and our way of life. With a spirit of pride and gratitude, let us recall their heroic accomplishments and thank them for their unselfish devotion to duty. They are indeed worthy of the solemn tribute of a grateful Nation.

I invite all Americans to join me in observing Veterans Day -- through appropriate ceremonies, activities, and commemorations on November 11.

In order that we may pay fitting homage to those men and women who have proudly served in our Armed Forces, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103 (a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor America's veterans.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, November 11, 1986, as Veterans Day. I urge all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities throughout the country. I invite the business community, churches, schools, unions, civic and fraternal organizations, and the media to support this national observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eleventh.

—Ronald Reagan

Link for source: <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/research/speeches/092386d>



5.) God Bless America: The History Behind the Song

God bless America, Land that I love...

Shortly after becoming an American citizen in 1918, Irving Berlin, already a highly successful popular lyricist and composer, was inducted and stationed at Camp Upton in Yaphank, Long Island, New York. He beguiled his commanding officers into allowing him to write a rousing musical comedy review which would serve to raise both funds and Army morale. For the finale of this production, Yip, Yip, Yaphank, Berlin wrote the original “God Bless America.” But he felt the song was too solemn for a comedy and put it aside for twenty years.

In the fall of 1938, as fascism and war threatened Europe, Irving Berlin decided to write a peace song. He recalled an unpublished version of a song that he had set aside in a trunk, took it out and shaped it into a second national anthem, “God Bless America.”

Once Berlin decided to re-work the song, he worked in typical style: with speed and attention to detail. The first manuscript of “God Bless America” (in the hand of musical secretary Helmy Kresa) is dated October 31, 1938, and the earliest “final” version of the song is dated November 2.

It is said in show business that “timing is everything.” During the three days Berlin revised “God Bless America,” the singer Kate Smith asked him for a patriotic song to perform on her CBS radio program, to be broadcast from the New York World’s Fair on November 10 to honor Armistice Day. Berlin wanted his song introduced by Smith’s fine contralto voice and the combination created an instant hit. Berlin generously signed over his royalty money from the song to charity and the revenues went to the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts of America.

Link for source: <https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200000007/>

