

Why Veterans Day?

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The Courant Wednesday asked people—ranging from decorated war heroes and a high ranking naval commander to the man on the street—what Veterans Day means to them.

Here are the answers:

William J. Johnston of Colchester, Congressional Medal of Honor winner for bravery in the Anzio beachhead: "This day brings back overseas—you think of the guys you knew who came back and those who didn't. When you see them marching in the parade—especially the crippled ones—you remember it all."

William Soderman of West Haven, who won the medal

for action in the Battle of the Bulge: "It reminds me of 20 years ago when we were sleeping out there in holes. I think of the sacrifices the guys made. But I think most of all of my boy, who's in the Navy now."

Rear Adm. John A. Tyree of Groton, deputy commander, submarine force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet: "As I rode around the sub base here in Groton today, I thought of the many who gave their lives and how they would be glad to see the boys manning the ships, ready to do the same thing if they have to."

See below for other replies.



LOST MY LEG

Albert Krupzack, 68, said Veterans Day "means a whole lot to me. I lost my leg in the First World War." Krupzack, who lives at the Rocky Hill Veterans Hospital, came into Hartford to see the parade. He said he lost his leg in action as a member of the 27th Division. He originally came from Hartford.



DRAFT BOARD WAS CLOSED

Steve Coffey, 135 Custer Dr., Windsor: "I guess they do it to give honor to the veterans of the wars. I just came down here to try to join the Army. The recruiting office was closed, so I went to the draft board. They're closed, too, so I'm just standing here."



SHOULDN'T HAPPEN AGAIN

Allison Lee, 47 Merriam Ave., Bloomfield: "This is a day to remember; to remind you that the wars of the past shouldn't happen again. I think our new leader, President Johnson, will do his best to see it doesn't happen again." Allison served in the Army Quartermaster Corps in World War II; spent three years overseas.



VETERANS WHO DIED

Sharon Toce, 29 Linnmoore St., Hartford: "Veterans Day means about veterans who died in the war. My grandfather was in World War I and he died in the war. My father was in the second world war. I come to the parade every year. But they don't teach us about Veterans Day in school."



KIDS JUST DON'T KNOW

David Fargo, 28, of Orchard Street, East Hartford, served in the Marines in the Korean War. "I often wonder if kids today know what Veterans Day or Armistice Day is all about. I really don't think they do. But to those who've served this day gives you a proud feeling."



BOYFRIEND IN SERVICE

Cherie Rackliffe, 16, of Huckleberry Lane, West Hartford: "I really couldn't say what Veterans Day means to me, except I think of my father and my boyfriend. Both were in the service. I'm honoring them I guess. I think it's great we honor them and we should do it more often."



IS IT VETERANS DAY?

I didn't even know it was Veterans Day," said Mrs. June Heffernan, 23, of Scarsdale, New York. "I came to Hartford for the day with my husband. He was too young to go to anything but the cold war. I think Veterans Day gets confused with Memorial Day but I do think the idea of such a day is a good one."



I COULD CRY

Mrs. James Jalbert, of 127 Jewberry St., said "I lost my first sweetheart and relatives in World War I, my son-in-law was a prisoner of war in Germany in World War II and my son also served then and in Korea. I could cry when I think of it all."