



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
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Union Herald Article from the desk of:



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November 2021

VETERAN'S DAY

In 1918, the Armistice was signed in the Forest of Compiegne between the Allied and Central Powers which silenced the guns of World War I effective at 11 am-the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. November 11th was set aside in commemoration of the end of hostilities.

Originally known as “Armistice Day”, it was first observed on November 11, 1919, the first Anniversary of the end of the World War. It was recognized as a legal holiday in the United States in 1945. On June 1, 1954, Congress would amend the bill-replacing “Armistice” with “Veteran’s”.

In many places in Europe, a moment of silence in memory of the millions of fallen soldiers is observed to this day. In the United States, we honor the fallen, and all who have served in the Military by observing moments of silence, flying our American Flag at half-staff, and with luncheons, dinners, and sometimes parades or ceremonies. In the U.S. it is not so much the somber day that it has been in past-we celebrate the lives of those who died for our freedoms, but also the heroes who have returned from the battles fought. There are many stories shared on social media of good deeds being done for those who have fought, so that we may continue to live and thrive in the greatest Country in the world.

In the beginning, the definition of Veteran's Day was to commemorate the end of war, and honor the fallen, and while I understand the inclusion of the living-perhaps we have missed a very important point-that the DAY be for the fallen. For those who were fortunate enough to return, that we honor and celebrate their lives, EVERY day. One day of gratitude just doesn't seem like enough for the lives we have-because of them. Small things make big differences-let them know that their sacrifices were and still are appreciated. I appreciate, and am grateful to all, who defend our Country. God Bless you.

Speaking of blessed, did you know that Irving Berlin's *God Bless America* was performed for the first time on November 11, 1938. It was written for Kate Smith, and soon became one of Smith's most requested songs, and was a patriotic favorite of Americans.

November has had many significant moments in American history, such as the adoption of the Articles of Confederation, by the Continental Congress on November 15, 1777. On November 17, 1800, the U.S. Congress met for the first time in the new capital at Washington D.C. President John Adams was the first occupant of the Executive Mansion-later renamed the White House.

President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, on November 19, 1863, during ceremonies to dedicate 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery. Although at the time, many were unimpressed, as his address took less than two minutes, Lincoln's words have come to symbolize the definition of Democracy itself. November 15, 1881, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, was formed. Five years later, the organization was renamed the American Federation of Labor (AFL).

At 12:30 p.m. on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was travelling by motorcade through Dallas, when he was shot in the back, and then the head, by an assassin. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital, where fifteen doctors tried to save him. At 1 p.m. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States was pronounced dead. Lyndon B Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President while on board Air Force One. Three days later, on November 25, John F. Kennedy was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Amazingly, the entire country was brought together, regardless of politics, religion, or other-and mourned.

In 1989, the Berlin Wall-a long standing symbol of the Cold War, was opened after 28 years on November 9. The 27.9-mile-long wall had been constructed in 1961. There was an epic New Year's celebration, in which David Hasselhoff sang from the top of the battered wall. Evidently the Germans were HUGE Hasselhoff fans, as I recently found a video from that date, and they were acting like Led Zeppelin reunited. Understandable to some extent, a good portion of those people lived for years without things that we take for granted. Access to choices in music and television was not an option. Looking back, it's amazing to me that in 1988, people were divided by a wall and armed guards. Divide and conquer. On the other hand, at least their government was open and blatant about all of it. They didn't care what the rest of the world thought, unlike ours, *which does the same exact thing-divides people*. Our government is just more covert about it. They distract people from the important issues, by keeping turmoil within-and the people fight

with each other, against each other. One needs only to look at the events in the past to see the truth.

This is my proposal: that everyone pause and reflect on two things. Number one, how has all of this dividing of the people, changed our country? Number two, who benefitted?

Regardless of our race, political affiliation, financial situation, or gender-we all know the difference between *right and wrong*. The truth is, that it is wrong for us say that **it's all** the Democrats fault, or **it's all** the Republican's fault. Both parties are at fault. There are good and bad in both. I am Democrat, by the way-but I do not believe one hundred percent in everything that they support. As for the Republicans, with an open mind, I can agree with some things-but the problem I have with them, is that it would appear, that they don't want unions, or a middle-class, and don't care about the masses who fall below the poverty line. It's not what they say, it's what they do. The subtle divide and conquer thing again.

We need to stop fighting each other, and make changes in Local, State, and National elections-support those candidates who will fight for the American dream for EVERYONE, regardless of the political party that they represent. We need to seek out individuals who may be willing to be candidates for our causes, and support their growth, as well. Above all else, pay attention! Look beyond the smoke and mirrors and be aware of what is really going on, and when issues are made known, call, write, visit your Representatives, Governors, Senators, or even the local officials-city councils, mayors, etc. and let them know that they will be held accountable for their actions, or in some cases, lack thereof.

I recently travelled to Vadnais Heights for the MN State Council of Machinists Fall 2021 Conference, held on October 29, 30, and 31st at Lodge 77. We were introduced to two candidates: one from SD-65, Sheigh Freeburg and from SD-26, Aleta Borrud, who will be seeking endorsements in the future. It is refreshing to see strong union backgrounds in any candidate. I will keep you updated, as we proceed into the next year. We also had Governor Tim Walz, Attorney General Keith Ellison, and Secretary of State, Steve Simon visit and speak at the Conference, as well as videos from Angie Craig, MN 2nd District Congressperson, Senator Tina Smith, Betty McCollum, MN 4th District Congressperson, and Ilhan Omar, MN 5th District Congressperson. The Conference was ended with a ZOOM meeting with Dan Feehan, candidate for CD-1.

Prior to that, I was in Oakbrook Terrace Illinois to attend a meeting with our General Vice President, Steve Galloway at the Midwest Territory offices building. DBRs, Organizers, and Grand Lodge Reps heard Steve speak on a number of topics, including Covid concerns regarding the Executive Order requiring vaccinations, organizing, upcoming events within the IAMAW, state of the IAM Pension, and Biden's appointment of Jennifer Abruzzo as General Counsel for the Nation Labor Relations Board. She will revisit prior rulings that decimated worker rights.

Vice President Galloway spoke on the need to organize, and that the support of the President of the United States, openly advocating for, and publicly declaring that "unions built the middle class" have presented a prime opportunity for workers to unite. He advised that Organizing is a priority, and as such, the Midwest Territory is actively recruiting and hiring full time organizers to assist the Business Reps with leads.

VP Galloway spoke of members anger and frustration regarding the Executive Order regarding mandatory Covid vaccination. At present time, there are several cases in litigation, trying to challenge the mandate. The IAM legal department is monitoring the situation and will advise and educate our members.

I will be travelling to Washington D.C. November 5, and hope to fit in all the sights that I have planned, yet I know deep down, there is way too much cool stuff to see, and since I like to lollygag, something will have to wait until next time.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Fraternally.

Jana Kirch, DBR DL 66