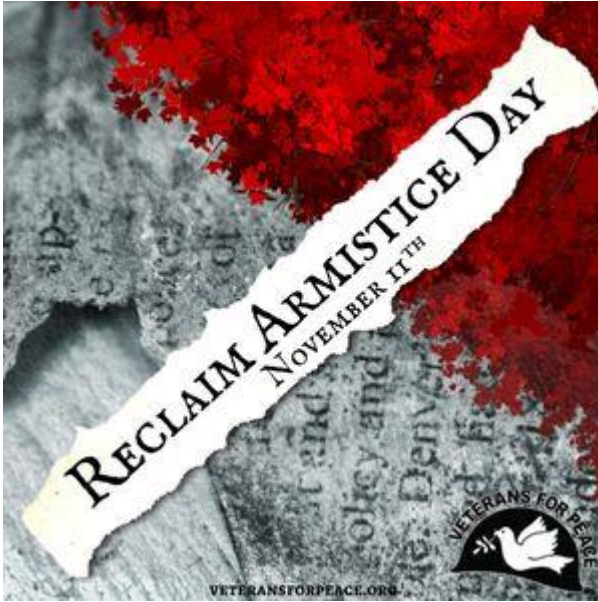# Reclaim Armistice Day – November 11th

Help Us Celebrate Armistice Day 2020!

Over one hundred years ago the world celebrated peace as a universal principle. The first World War had just ended and nations mourning their dead collectively called for an end to all wars. **Armistice Day was born and was designated as "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated."**

After World War II, the U.S. Congress decided to rebrand November 11 as Veterans Day. Honoring the warrior quickly morphed into honoring the military and glorifying war. Armistice Day was flipped from a day for peace into a day for displays of militarism.

Veterans For Peace has taken the lead in lifting up the original intention of November 11th – as a day for peace. **As veterans we know that a day that celebrates peace, not war, is the best way to honor the sacrifices of veterans**. We want generations after us to never know the destruction war has wrought on people and the earth.

Veterans For Peace has been celebrating Armistice Day almost since the organization's inception, with a few chapters doing yearly events. Since 2008, with the passing of an official Veterans For Peace resolution, it became a VFP national effort. Each year, chapters across the country "Reclaim Armistice Day" by pushing the celebration of peace into the national conversation on Veterans Day.

Veterans For Peace is calling on everyone to stand up for peace this Armistice Day. More than ever, the world faces a critical moment. Tensions are heightened around the world and the U.S. is engaged militarily in multiple countries, without an end in sight. Here at home we have seen the increasing militarization of our police forces and brutal crackdowns on dissent and people's uprisings against state power. We must press our government to end reckless military interventions that endanger the entire world. We must build a culture of peace.

"The Armistice of 1918 ended the terrible slaughter of World War I. The U.S. alone had experienced the death of over 116,000 soldiers, plus many more who were physically and mentally disabled. For one moment, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, ==the world agreed World War I must be considered the WAR TO END ALL WARS==. There was exuberant joy everywhere, and many churches rang their bells, some 11 times at 11 a.m. November 11, when the Armistice was signed. For many years this practice endured, and then slowly, it faded away. Now we do it again. ==We ring the bells 11== times, with a moment of silence, to remember the many soldiers and civilians killed and injured by warfare, ==and to make our own commitment to work for peace, in our family, our church, our community, our nation, our world.== God Bless The Entire World."

Bells Liturgy audio~: https://www.veteransforpeace.org/files/9215/4022/9031/Elegy-Litany.m4a