

veteran: vet-er-an (n) \ 've-tə-rən

a veteran – whether active duty, retired, discharged, or reserve – is someone who, at some point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount “up to and including their life”

-- <https://www.plu.edu/military-affiliated-students/>

On November 11, the United States celebrates Veterans Day, a day dedicated to honoring those who have served our country through military service.

Veterans Day honors America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

This exhibit illustrates the experiences of military veterans.

It intends to share the diversity that veteran students, staff and faculty bring to Pacific Lutheran University.

This exhibit was created by PLU Vet Corps Navigator Kara Atkinson (PLU '23) as a service project.

Veterans make up approximately 7% of the US population. With fewer Americans serving in the military than in previous generations, the American public has become disconnected with those who have served. This disconnect is characterized by misperceptions, lack of knowledge, and the inability for civilians to identify with those who have served. The intention behind this exhibit and service project is to reconnect the PLU community with veterans that they may see across campus.

Veteran PLU students, staff and faculty were asked the following questions:

What does service mean to you?

Why did you volunteer to serve?

What is something that you as a veteran would like you fellow Lutes to know about the military?

What was your most memorable moment as a service member?

Please take some extra time to learn about our military veterans, their experiences, why they chose to serve, and some of the challenges that they may face; check out the displayed books and resources featured in this exhibit.

The United States military has never reflected the American society that it serves. The military, guided by both Congress and societal norms over time, has prohibited or severely limited service to groups including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian-Americans, women and LGBTQ have at various times been banned from service or allowed in only under certain conditions.

Despite discrimination, racism, sexism and homophobia, marginalized groups have continued to serve their country through military service.

Their courage and sacrifices have paved the way for the post-9/11 cohort of veterans to be more diverse than any of their predecessors.

The books featured in this exhibit were selected to highlight the diverse and varied experiences of military veterans, past and present.

In 1918, on the 11th hour, of the 11th, day, of the 11th month, the armistice agreement that ended the “War to End All Wars” was signed by Allied Nations and Germany.

The day that the fighting of the Great War ended came to be known as Armistice Day.

In 1926, Congress made Armistice Day official, resolving that the "recurring anniversary of November 11, 1918, should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace between nations."¹

In 1954, veterans of WWII and the Korean War lobbied Congress to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day to honor veterans of every war. Later that year, President Dwight Eisenhower signed HR7786 into law making the change official.

Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11 to preserve the significance of the day.

¹ Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, “History of Veterans Day,” U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, March 20, 2006, <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>.

Student Veterans (SV) Nationwide by the Numbers

Only 20% of SV are likely to be traditionally college aged; 52% are likely to be married; 53% are likely to have children; 19% of SV are single parents

Approximately 60% of SV are first-generation students

SV mostly pursue business, STEM, and healthcare degrees

About 2-in-3 SV have a service-connected disability



Scan the QR code for more information, statistics, and best practices to support student veteran learning

