

Veteran Day 2019 Recap

Here are some of the ways Veterans Day was celebrated in 2019 throughout our country. In Green Valley, on 6 November, we had the local American Legion present to our Forum Club a program on flag folding, the MIA/POW chair ceremony and what it means to be a Legion member. On Sunday, the same Legion Post held its Veterans Day ceremony outside the post in the 80 degree temperatures with the local high school band doing a short program, including, of course, the service songs of each branch.

Before the New York Knicks/Cleveland Cavaliers game on Sunday, 10 November, World War II Veteran 'Harmonica Pete' DuPre at 96 years of age played the Star-Spangled Banner on his harmonica. If you do a web search on Harmonica Pete, you can find a video of the performance.

Throughout the country, communities large and small held parades and programs honoring our Veterans. In Moorhead, the Red River Veterans Concert Band did several programs at VFWs and Legions. They are always a hit.

At Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Army Band, 'Pershing's Own' played in the amphitheater as is tradition. It included a wreath-laying ceremony by Vice President Pence at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

In New York, President Trump's opening remarks kicked off the 100th Veterans Day parade. The parade comprised of over 25,000 people in the 1.2 mile route. The grand marshals included three Medal of Honor recipients; a Marine from WWII, an Army Veteran from the Korean War, and a Navy Veteran from the Vietnam War.

In Seattle, WA, Veterans with severe experiences from combat enrolled in a VA sponsored program of writing as a way of expressing some of the terrible things they saw in combat. One Veteran said "It's like therapy, but not going to therapy."

In Tucson, AZ, Sweetie and I went to the Women's Veteran Art Project opening reception. Thirteen women Veterans had a showing of the art work. The artists ranged from college age to retired with over 30 years of service. Much of the art was therapy because of combat zone experience. We even purchased one of the paintings.

In Anthem, AZ, there is a Veterans Memorial designed to allow sunlight to show through five pillars representing the five branches of service onto a seal of the US at 11:00 am on 11 November. It is about three and half hours from where we are in AZ. Perhaps next year we will go see it.

Facebook users posted many pictures of family members who served in the military. My father (Army, WWI), two brothers (Army, peacetime), three uncles (two Army and one career Navy, all WWII) and one nephew (Navy, Vietnam) honorably served. All Veterans put their lives on the line in service to our country. Thank You.