

HISTORY OF MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

The American military was founded even before the country itself. To fight the British and gain independence for the future United States, the Continental Congress created the army in 1775. After winning the Revolutionary War, the Founding Fathers didn't intend to have a standing army. They disbanded the Continental Army and called for the "well-armed militias" that have become a flashpoint in today's debate over the Second Amendment.



Today, the U.S. military is the world's largest employer, with close to 3.5 million personnel employed in one way or another. The U.S. Department of Defense hires more people than any other organization or corporation in the world. By contrast, Wal-Mart, the largest private company, has 2.2 million employees worldwide.

Military personnel work in a variety of jobs, and many never see combat at all. After their service, they go on to hold important civilian jobs in many fields including information security, IT, commercial airline flight, corporate management, and more.

May is [Military Appreciation Month](#) honoring everyone who has served in a branch of the U.S. military and reminds us that we owe many of our freedoms to the sacrifices made by military personnel. The month-long celebration was formally introduced by Senator John McCain in 1999, using a month that marks many important military anniversaries to highlight the contributions of our troops. In addition to keeping the country safe during wartime, the U.S. military also conducts important research that has led to many important and useful civilian technologies that we use every day like GPS, canned food, and jet engines.

[Military Appreciation Month - National Today](#)

Important Military Holidays and Observances

Feb. 3, 2025 – Four Chaplains Day – A Day to remember the four U.S. Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice when the USAT Dorchester sank during World War II.

Feb. 19, 2025 – Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

March 3, 2025 – Navy Reserve Birthday

March 13, 2025 - K-9 Veterans Day – The date is the official birthday of the United States K9 Corps and a day to honor their service.

March 25, 2025 - Medal of Honor Day – A holiday to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States.

March 29, 2025 – Vietnam Veterans Day – A national holiday to recognize and honor Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War. Learn more about Vietnam Veterans Day [here](#).

April 5, 2025 – Gold Star Spouses Day – A Day dedicated to those whose spouses gave their lives while serving in the U.S. military or as a result of service-connected injuries or illness.

April 14, 2025 – Air Force Reserve Birthday

April 23, 2025 – Army Reserve Birthday

May 1, 2025 – Silver Star Banner Day – Per Congressional resolution, it is an “Official Day to honor wounded, ill, and injured Veterans”.

May 9, 2025 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day – This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.

May 13, 2025 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day – A Day to honor the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom.

May 17, 2025 – Armed Forces Day Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

May 26, 2025 – Memorial Day A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military. Learn more about Memorial Day [here](#).

For the complete list go to: [Military Holidays and Observances — R&DA](#)

