What do we choose to remember?

By Lt. Cm Douglas Vrieland

November 11, 1918, at 11 in the morning—the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month—an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities between the allied nations and Germany went into effect, signaling the end of World War I, also known as "the Great War." One year later President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as "Armistice Day" with these words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations. . ."

In 1954, following World War II and the Korean conflict, the word "Veterans" was substituted for "Armistice" and Nov. 11 became a day to honor veterans of all the nations wars (see U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs "History of Veterans Day" http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp).

Last month on the National Mall in Washington D.C. the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial was dedicated.

The monument stands between the Lincoln Memorial, where nearly 50 years ago King gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, and the Jefferson Memorial. Nearly $120 million in private donations was raised to help make this memorial a reality.

It might seem a bit odd to refer to King in an article on Veterans Day. However, exactly one year before his death, on April 4, 1967, King delivered a speech at a meeting of Clergy and Laity Concerned at Riverside Church in New York City.

In that speech King made a passionate case for immediately ending the war in Vietnam. Referring to that war, King said, "Somehow this madness must cease." In that speech he called our nation to "end all bombing in North and South Vietnam" and to "declare a unilateral cease-fire in the hope that such action will create the atmosphere for negotiation".

What possible connection is there between this civil rights leader turned pacifist and the annual day set aside for honoring those who fought wars for our nation?

The answer, I believe, is in the original intent of Wilson in the establishment of Armistice Day.

World War I was one of the bloodiest wars in human history. Between 15 and 20 million people were killed in that war. But those who served in that war did so in the hope that this would be the "war to end all wars."

Wilson's proclamation speaks of "the thing from which it (the allied victory) has freed us", namely war itself. He refers to our national passion for "peace and justice in the councils of nations."

In his speech King called for a "radical revolution of values". He went on to say that "there is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war."

World War II removed the optimism of a "war to end all wars." And those of us who wear military uniforms are probably not in complete agreement with King's pacifism. But I hope we can all join with Wilson and King in embracing the hope and desire for a world free from war.

On this Veterans Day I challenge to reflect on the values that we all hold as Americans, values like freedom, justice and peace.

These are values worth defending, and even worth dying for. These are the values that historically have united us as a people.

These are the values that veterans of our nation's wars have sought to protect. And these are the values that King devoted his life to.

You can tell a lot about a culture by what they choose to remember.

A new memorial on the National Mall and a national day of remembrance in November both point to the values that have made our nation great.

On this Veterans Day let us recommit ourselves to the task of maintaining and promoting those values that have made our nation strong and the leader of the free world.

Cut and save

Emergency Information

Commander Fleet Activites Yokosuka (CFAY) and Negishi and Ikego Housing Detachment residents are advised to stay tuned to the following mediums for emergency information:

- CFAY Web Site: http://www.cnic.navy.mil/yokosuka
- CFAY Facebook page: http://www.Facebook.com/cfayokosuka
- CFAY Twitter page: http://twitter.com/cfay_yokosuka
- CFAY base Channel 15
- Eagle 810 AM Radio station
- A recorded weather message can be obtained by calling 243-5155.

The information provided will include but is not limited to notification of actions to take for severe weather and the unexpected or early dismissal of schools.

Cut and save

Photocopying of DoD CAC, ID cards prohibited

By MC1 (SW/AW) Monique K. Hilley,
Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) issued an announcement reminding all personnel that the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC) is strictly prohibited, Nov. 1.

There have been recent incidents reported of commercial establishments photocopying U.S. government identification to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service. These incidents are a violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701 and are punishable by fine and, or imprisonment.

Although commercial establishments may request to see military/government identification, they may not photocopy or duplicate it in any way. Many military personnel and commercial establishments are unaware of the prohibition and the reasons it exists, which results in this being a fairly common practice.

Because of the access the cards grant, criminal elements and terrorist organizations place obtaining U.S. government identifications at a premium when planning acts against the U.S. military. If a copied military or government identification fell into the wrong hands, it could spell disaster for the armed forces and the nation.

Unfortunately, there are no safeguards in place to prevent a counterfeit military/government identification card from being produced based on a photocopy provided to a commercial establishment. For this reason, personnel are requested to remain vigilant in ensuring they do not allow anyone to photocopy their identification cards.

CNIC recommends that all personnel, both military and civilian, provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied when there is a request for such information by a commercial establishment.

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