

Honoring Veteran's on Veteran's Day (2007) at 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church in Lincoln, NE  
By Robert C. Molby, Interim Pastor

A young boy stood in the narthex of the Presbyterian Church looking at the names recorded on the wall. They were members of the church who had given their lives in the service of their country during World War II. The Pastor came by and observed the young boy studying the names. He knew the boy and spoke to him in a friendly manner. He asked, "What's on your mind, young man?" The boy asked about the names on the plaques mounted on the wall. "Who are these people?" he asked. The minister explained that these were the names of church members who had died in the service. The boy stood there very thoughtful and respectful. Then he asked, "Was it the 8:30 service or the 11 o'clock service?"

If we don't give some kind of recognition to this day and honor those veterans who gave their lives for the cause of peace we not only tend to forget the meaning of this day ourselves but succeeding generations will have no clue as to what it means.

Do you know the original name for this day? What was it called before it was called Veteran's Day? Why was it called that?

It is referred to as World War I which began in 1914 and ended in 1918. Sometimes we called this the Great War because we did not believe that there could be any war greater than this one. At 5 AM on November 11, 1918, word went out to all the forces that the Germans had signed a cease fire to begin at 11 AM that day. The word "Armistice" simply means a truce. And at that time, on the 11<sup>th</sup> month and the 11<sup>th</sup> day and at 11 AM, the fighting stopped and did not resume. The day began with the laying down of arms, blowing of whistles, impromptu parades, closing of places of business. All over the globe there were many demonstrations; the world had never before witnessed such rejoicing.

In 1938 Congress passed a bill that each November 11 "shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and ...hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day." President Calvin Coolidge called upon officials to display the flag over all government buildings on that day and invited the people to observe the day in schools and churches. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill making the day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia. For sixteen years the United States formally observed Armistice Day, with impressive ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Chief Executive or his representative lays a wreath at that