



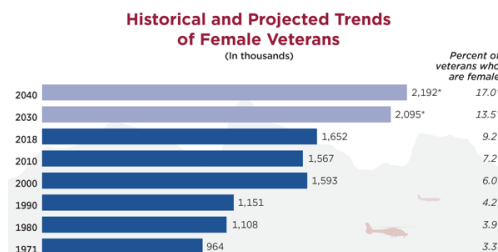
Veterans Day  
11 November 2020

“Freedom isn’t free, independence isn’t forever, and democracy isn’t for the faint of heart.”  
US Navy Admiral Michael Gilday, CNO

Across the Nation this **Veterans Day**, we honor and celebrate the service, sacrifice, and commitment of those more than 23-million persons who have worn the uniform of this great nation; who have for 244 years shouldered the challenge and responsibility of defending freedom. 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, and the 30th anniversary of both the end of the Panama Invasion and the beginning of Desert Shield

From the US Census Bureau on Veterans Published June 02, 2020 Release Number cb20-tps.30. Highlights include:

- “...while the overall population of veterans is declining, the number of female veterans is on the rise and Post 9-11 veterans have the highest rate of service-connected disability compared to any other group of veterans.
- The number of veterans in the United States declined by about a third, from 26.4 million to 18.0 million between 2000 and 2018.
- Fewer than 500,000 World War II veterans were alive in 2018, down from 5.7 million in 2000.
- Women make up a growing share of veterans. About 1.7 million, or 9% of veterans, were women in 2018. It is projected that number will jump to 17% by 2040.



- The largest cohort of veterans alive in 2018 served during the Vietnam Era (6.4 million), which lasted from 1964 to 1975. The second-largest cohort of living veterans served during peacetime only (4.0 million).

- The median age of veterans in 2018 was 65. By service period, Post-9/11 veterans were the youngest with a median age of about 37; Vietnam Era veterans had a median age of about 71; and World War II veterans were the oldest with a median age of about 93.
- Veterans from recent service periods have the highest levels of education. More than three-quarters of Post-9/11 and Gulf War veterans had at least some college experience, and more than one-third of Gulf War veterans had a college degree.
- Post-9/11 veterans had a 43% chance of having a service-connected disability, after accounting for differences in demographic and social characteristics among veterans —significantly higher than that of veterans from other periods.
- Among veterans who had a service-connected disability, Post-9/11 veterans had a 39% chance of having a disability rating of 70% or more — significantly higher than for veterans from other periods.

Veterans Day Historical:

Veterans Day coincides with other international remembrances, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other countries marking the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month of 1918.

At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day in that Veterans Day recognizes the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service. Armed Forces Day honors those persons, and their families, currently serving in the U.S. military.

During each of these days of recognition it would be difficult to not honor and remember all military personnel past and present. So again today, we equally honor military members proudly serving at home or abroad and to our veterans who courageously served in times of war and peace. All are dedicated persons, families, who answered the call to protect the rights and freedoms we so dearly cherish.

For that, the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association salutes you!

James M Wilhite, FRAeS  
 President  
 Lifetime Member  
 Combat Helicopter Pilots Association (CHPA)

