



Veteran's Day

退伍軍人紀念日



“Grandma, why are you cutting up that shirt?” Granny Beck was sitting on the floor with scissors in her hands.

“My friends and I are recycling old shirts to make Valor Quilts. We are making quilts for wounded soldiers. When soldiers get hurt, it is better to be given a colorful warm quilt instead of a rough wool blanket. We want to have the quilts done by Veteran’s Day.”

“Why by Veteran’s Day?” asked Grandpa.

「奶奶，妳為什麼要剪那件襯衫？」
貝琪奶奶坐在地上，手上拿著剪刀。

「我的朋友和我要回收舊襯衫，製作勇士拼布被。我們在為受傷的軍人製作拼布被。當軍人受傷時，給他們一條溫暖且色彩鮮艷的拼布被，比用一條粗糙的羊毛毯來得好。我們要在退伍軍人紀念日前把被子做好。」

「為什麼要在退伍軍人紀念日前呢？」
爺爺問。

“Veteran’s Day is a holiday when we honor people in the military who help serve our country.”

“I am proud of you, Granny. It is important to show veterans that we appreciate them. On that day many people watch Veteran’s Day Parades. Restaurants offer veterans free meals. Workers get the day off in honor of our soldiers. But what you are doing is really beautiful.”

“Thank you Grandpa. I heard that Veteran’s Day has other names. Is that true?”

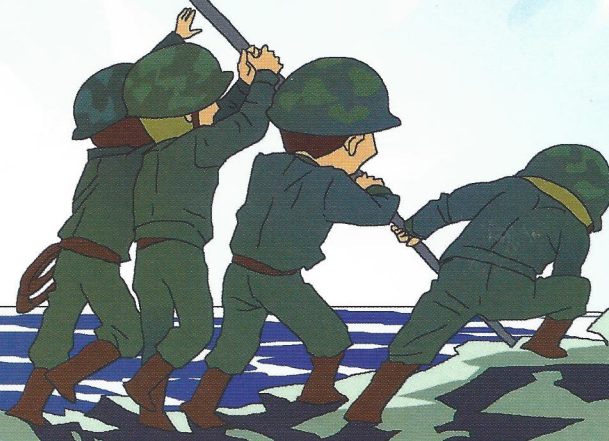
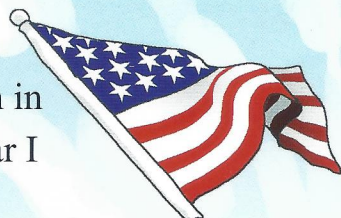
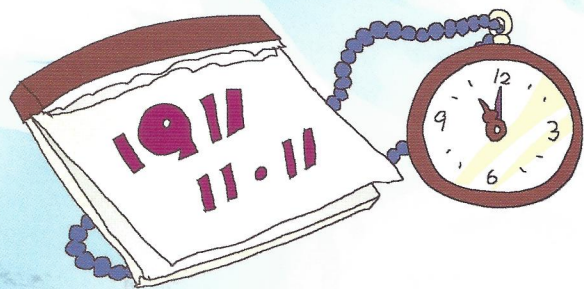
“The day was once called Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. It was meant to be a day to promote world peace. Ceremonies were first held at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1919, exactly one year after World War I officially ended.”

「因為我們在退伍軍人紀念日表揚那些幫忙保衛我們國家的軍人。」

「我真以妳為榮，奶奶。讓退伍軍人知道我們相當感激他們，這是很重要的。在那天，會有很多人觀賞退伍軍人節遊行。餐廳會提供退伍軍人免費餐點。為了紀念我們的軍人，所有勞工會放一天假。妳在做的事也相當感人。」

「爺爺，謝謝你。我聽說退伍軍人紀念日也有其他名稱，是真的嗎？」

「這一天曾被稱為停戰紀念日或是國殤日，原先的意思是利用這一天來紀念世界和平。全球第一個紀念儀式舉辦於1911年11月11日的第11個小時，正好是第一次世界大戰正式結束滿1年。」





“The American government changed the name to Veteran’s day in 1954.” Grandpa Mike continued, “France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and South Africa also celebrate Veteran’s Day. Canada, Australia and Great Britain still refer to their holidays as Remembrance Day. All of them honor service members on November 11 or on the Sunday closest to that date. Norway celebrates the holiday too. But, they celebrate in May.”

Granny said, “Our quilt guild made the larger quilts to send overseas. I would like to make a few lap quilts to give away to veterans at the retirement home. It helps me remember my father. He served in the military during World War II.”

“Did he fight in the war?”

“No, he was a carpenter. He built military bases. Veterans serve their countries in many different ways.”

「美國政府在1954年把這天更名為退伍軍人紀念日。」麥可爺爺繼續說道：「法國、德國、愛爾蘭、義大利和南非也都慶祝退伍軍人紀念日。加拿大、澳洲和大英國協則繼續稱這天為國殤日。但這些國家都是在11月11日，或是最鄰近這個日期的週日來紀念軍人。挪威也紀念這個日子，但他們是在5月慶祝。」

奶奶說：「我們的拼布俱樂部會製作較大的拼布被送到海外。我想要做幾塊蓋腿被送給養老院裡的退伍軍人。這讓我想起了我父親，他在二次世界大戰期間於軍中服役。」

「他有上戰場打仗嗎？」

「沒有，他是一名木匠，負責建造軍事基地。退伍軍人用許多不同方式為國家服務。」





“I know that,” said Grandpa Mike. “And we remember them in many different ways. Some families attend special church services. Some visit veterans at military hospitals and in nursing homes. Veterans like to know they are remembered and appreciated. At work, we send care packages with things to help soldiers and signed cards to tell them they were remembered.”

“Will you do anything special for Veteran’s Day this year, Grandpa?” asked Granny Beck.

“Yes,” laughed Grandpa Mike. “I am writing a story to remind families to remember our veterans.”

「這點我知道。」麥可爺爺說。「我們也用許多不同的方式來紀念他們。有些家庭會參加教堂舉辦的特別儀式；有些人則會到軍事醫院和養老院探望退伍軍人。退伍軍人喜歡知道，還有人記得他們、感謝他們。在公司，我們會寄禮物包裹給他們，裡頭裝著幫助他們的物資；我們也會集體在卡片上簽名，讓他們知道，大家都記得他們。」

「爺爺，那你今年會做什麼特別的事紀念退伍軍人紀念日嗎？」貝琪奶奶問。

「會呀。」麥可爺爺笑著說。「我正在寫一個故事，告訴大家要記得我們的退伍軍人。」

英文朗讀線上收聽：

<http://www.c-talk.com/flash.htm>

