



November 11, 2010

Watco Team:

Fifty-six years ago today history was made in Emporia, Kansas with the proclamation of Veterans Day. November 11 had previously been called Armistice Day and celebrated veterans of World War I, but to one Kansan, Alvin King, it became apparent all veterans deserved recognition.

Although King was not a military man himself, his nephew was killed during the invasion of Normandy, France. King soon suggested Armistice Day be changed to Veterans Day to celebrate all veterans. The proposal was taken to Congress, which approved, as did President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In 1954 Veterans Day was celebrated nationally for the first time.

Some people are unsure of the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring members of our military who died during service for our country, particularly those who died in battle or from wounds received in battle. While those who died in service are also remembered during Veterans Day, its main purpose is to thank and honor all who served honorably, but is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service.

Veterans Day is one day of the year set aside to recognize veterans of both wartime and peacetime. However, as I have said many times, I do my best to celebrate Veterans Day every opportunity I get. My travels across our great country allow me to cross paths with many of our military men and women. I make every effort to walk up to them, look them in the eye and say "Thank you for your service." Although these military men and women I see are blessed to have not given the ultimate sacrifice, their contributions to our country and willingness to put their life on the line is appreciated and they should be celebrated.

I hope you have an American flag flying high at your home or office and that today you display it with extra pride. However, my true wish is that each and every one of you will celebrate Veterans Day every opportunity you have by stopping someone in uniform to say "Thank you for your service."

Please seek out a veteran today to share your appreciation for their contribution to our freedom and also pray for our military men and women currently at war to make it home safely.

Keep making great things happen,

*Rich*