

Meet a Soldier



Veterans visit classrooms across the country to talk with students.

When Christopher Bain visits schools, he shows students his Army uniform. He also talks to them about the American flag and what it **symbolizes**, or represents.

Mr. Bain is a **veteran** who lives in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. A veteran is a person who has served in the U.S. armed forces. November 11 is **Veterans Day**, a day when Americans honor veterans. There are approximately 22.7 million U.S. veterans living today.

Mr. Bain is just one of many veterans who visits with students. Now a new program is helping to connect more students with veterans like Mr. Bain. It is called Take a Veteran to School Day. The program was created by the History Channel. It encourages schools to invite

veterans to speak to students of all ages. Representatives from the History Channel say it's important that students know veterans.

One school to get on board with the program was Steven G. Schorr Elementary School in Las Vegas, Nevada. That's where the Take a Veteran to School Day program was launched in May of 2007. Third graders met several veterans at the event. Jennifer Rowland is a teacher at the school. "My students were really able to grasp the meaning and importance of Veterans Day by meeting an actual veteran," she told *WR News*. "They loved trying on and touching an actual [military] helmet!"

Veterans get a lot out of the experience too. Mr. Bain served in the Iraq war. "I tell [students] a little bit about my story," he told *WR News*. "I wanted to serve my country so I can keep [Americans'] way of life and keep the freedoms that we have."

Veterans Day Facts

Nearly 2 million U.S. veterans are women.

The country's oldest and largest Veterans Day parade is held in Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1968, Congress passed a law to move Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The holiday was switched back to November 11 in 1978.

Unexpected Veterans

Men and women are not the only military heroes—dogs can be veterans too! Dogs, such as German shepherds, began serving in the U.S. armed forces in the 1940s. Today they continue to assist soldiers. Military dogs **patrol**, or guard, areas and sniff out bombs and traps.