

Re: Armistice Day

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11/25/53
EEU

Smith Freber
2065 Turk Street
San Francisco, Calif.
Nov. 11, 1953

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The other day my little boy, nine years of age, who is interested in a holiday from school no matter what the reason, asked me what Armistice Day was. I explained to him that it was a holiday set aside to commemorate the cessation of hostilities or the end of the fighting of World War I. The answer he gave me started me to think. The answer was "Oh". It meant absolutely nothing to him except a day off from school.

As a four-year Navy veteran of World War II and as a four year old myself at the time of the Armistice I began to wonder why this was the only day as a national holiday commemorating our victories and heroes dead and alive. To my son, this holiday means about as much to him as something in the Spanish-American war would mean to me.

As a suggestion, why can't we change the name of the day to cover all wars - something like "Unknown Soldier's Day" or "Victory Day" and put a little meaning into it for everyone, not just the 40 and 8 who parade around a bit every year.

I know that you are certainly occupied with much more pressing problems than this, but I certainly would like to know how you feel about this.

Very truly yours,

Smith Freber
Smith Freber