Discover America
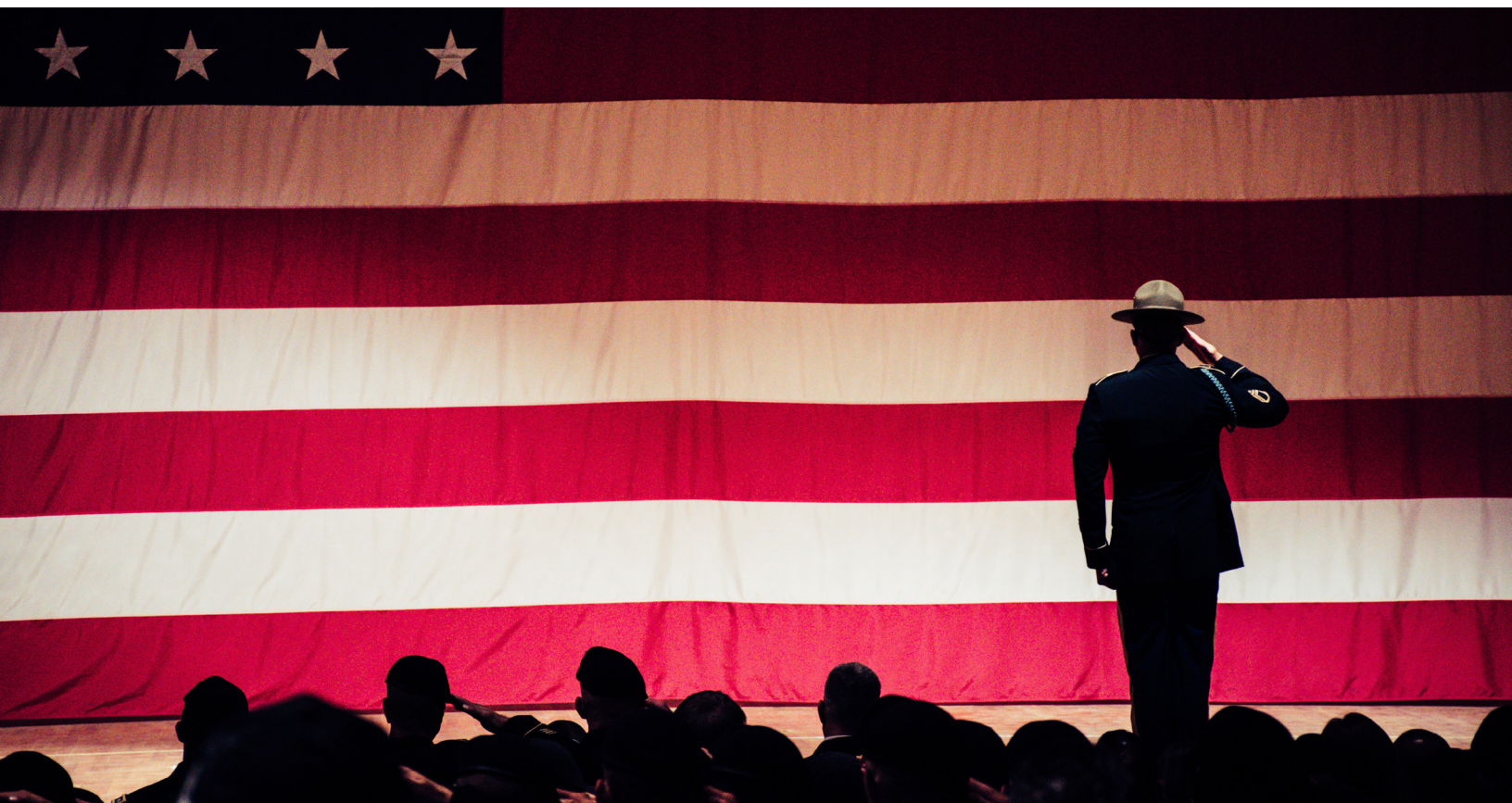## Course 11 - Teacher Guide

LITTLEPATRIOTS

OUR AMERICAN HEROES

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Understand the importance of thanking Soldiers and Veterans

- Understand what it means to sacrifice

- Understand the history of wars the USA has fought in

Key Terms

01   **Military** - people in the six branches of the armed forces

02   **Army** — oldest and largest branch of the military made up of soldiers who fight on all types of land

03   **Navy** — second branch in the military made up of sailors who fight on warships in the world's oceans

04   **Marine Corps** - third branch of the military who's members, called Marines, help the other branches of the military fight on both land and sea

05   **Coast Guard** - fourth branch of the military; "coasties" have the important job of rescuing and performing life-saving missions while guarding the American coastlines

06   **Air Force** - military branch created during World War II when pilots were needed to fight from the sky; members, called airmen, were originally part of the Army

07   **Space Force** - sixth branch of the military established in 2019; "guardians" defend American interests on earth and beyond from space

08   **Patriot Day** — day when we remember the tragic strikes against us on September 11th 2001 by Islamic Fundamentalist terrorists

Our American Heroes - 2nd Grade
Introduction

In this course, we will learn about Our American Heroes! America has a rich history of honoring those who sacrifice for our freedom on special days throughout our year.

TELL Students

America has a rich history of honoring those who sacrifice for our freedom on special days throughout our year. The most famous are Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May and honors those who have died in combat against our enemies. Veterans Day is on November 11th (the day combat in WWI ended) and honors all those living men and women who have fought for us, but did not die in combat. It is important to remember that since the end of the Military Draft in 1973, ALL of those who serve in our defense are Volunteers. They serve in our defense because they want to stand between us and the dangers we face in this world.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty - **Episode 11, Our American Heroes**

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There are many other days designated to specifically honor each Branch of our
<u>military</u> services, including the third Saturday in May when we honor all of our
Armed Forces together. We even set aside March 13th to remember our K-9 military
working dogs who help guard our installations all over the world. We remember
those who have been wounded while defending us on National Purple Heart day
on August 7th. It is still the only medal that requires the shedding of your own
blood to earn it. On March 25th we remember those who have been awarded our
nation's highest award for military Valor in combat — The Medal of Honor. In the
160 years since it was first awarded (to Private Jacob Parrott of the Union Army in
America's Civil War) only 3,534 people have ever earned it, including Dr. Mary E.
Walker (Surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War) the only woman so far
honored.

We also remember the birthdays of each of our military Service Branches
throughout the year including the United States <u>Army</u> on June 14th, the United States
<u>Coast Guard</u> on August 4th, the United States <u>Air Force</u> on September 18th, the
United States <u>Navy</u> on October 13th, the United States <u>Marine Corps</u> on November
10th, the United States National Guard on December 13th, and our newest Branch
the United States <u>Space Force</u> on December 20th.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty - **National Holidays + Honoring Our Heroes**

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ARMY — Without our military, America would not exist — in fact, it would never have even been born. The Army is the oldest branch of the military — it was established even before the Declaration of Independence was signed. The Army fights on land, across all types of terrain — from snow-covered mountains and dense forests to blistering hot deserts and endless valleys. Today, the Army is the largest branch of the military. The Army was established on June 14, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress to defend the 13 colonies from the British. Known at the time as the Continental Army, George Washington was unanimously selected as the Commander-in-Chief.

NAVY — In the fall of 1775, the Continental Navy was established. The navy fights on oceans that are far away and is in charge of all of the big warships. Today, some Navy ships, called aircraft carriers, are so big that there are thousands of sailors working aboard, with planes that take off and land on them. At the time of the Revolutionary War, Britain had the strongest navy in the world. Washington knew that a navy was critical for the success of the colonies in a war against Britain. The navy would be important to make sure that American ships — filled with goods — could make it to their destination to be sold. The navy would also make it harder for British ships — filled with supplies — to reach the British army in the colonies. As Washington wrote, "It follows then as certain as that night succeeds the day, that without a decisive naval force we can do nothing definitive, and with it, everything honorable and glorious."

MARINES — The third branch, the Marine Corps, was established by the Second Continental Congress on November 10, 1775. The Marine Corps is an amphibious force — meaning they operate on land and sea. They help out the other branches of the military with their missions. After the American victory in the Revolutionary War, the Navy and the Marine Corps dissolved. After all, paying for these forces was expensive and Britain no longer seemed to be a problem.

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Lesson Guide

TELL Students

COAST GUARD — Washington knew that with all of the goods being transported along the American coastline, America would need to make sure that the law was followed. So, to enforce laws and prevent people from sneaking goods in and out of the country, which is called smuggling, George Washington established the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790. In 1915 the Revenue Cutter Service became the Coast Guard, which has a particularly unique job. The Coast Guard are the police and guardians of the sea, who have the important job of rescuing and performing life-saving missions for people who need help. But even with the Coast Guard protecting America's waters, American ships were getting attacked by pirates as they sailed across the seas. Our newly independent nation realized that the protection of Americans across the oceans of the world was needed. The Navy was reestablished by Congress in 1794 to fight off these pirates, and as the Navy expanded, the Marine Corps was reestablished just a few years later — in 1798.

AIR FORCE — In the early 1900s, following the Wright Brothers' first flight, the American military took to the sky and got its first pilots. At the time, these airmen were a part of the Army. During World War II, the size of America's air forces dramatically increased. The technology of airplanes had gotten much better by the time that the war began in 1939 and a significant portion of the war was fought from the air. Throughout World War II, the air forces were expanded and reorganized but it wasn't until after the war ended that the Air Force was established as its own branch of the military, in 1947. The Air Force is responsible for all of the missions and operations that take place in the sky.

SPACE FORCE — As you can see, throughout history, the American military has developed, changed, and adapted to meet the challenges our nation faces. As humans continue to explore what lies beyond planet Earth and develop new technology that makes it possible to travel to the stars, the United States established the sixth and newest branch of the military in 2019 — the Space Force. Service members in the Space Force are called guardians. The Space Force protects space-based systems and defends American interests on earth and beyond from space.

Our American Heroes - 2nd Grade
Lesson Guide

Patriot Day

TELL Students

Perhaps the day that causes us to pause most in our current times is "Patriot Day" — September 11th — when we remember the tragic strikes against us on September 11th 2001. On that terrible day America was suddenly attacked without warning by 19 Islamic Fundamentalist terrorists who took over four civilian airliners filled with innocent passengers and suicidal crashed two of them (United Airlines Flight 175 and American Airlines Flight 11) into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and a third (American Airlines Flight 77) into the headquarters of our nation's Defense Department in the Pentagon near Washington DC, killing nearly 3,000 innocent Americans.

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty - **Patriot Day**

Assessment

Fill in the Blank

1

Who do we celebrate during Veteran's Day?

2

True or False: The Army was established even before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

3

True or False: The Navy has always existed since it was formed.

Our American Heroes - 2nd Grade
Assessment Key

Fill in the Blank

1

Who do we celebrate during Veteran's Day?

People who served in the Military

2

True or False: The Army was established even before the Declaration of Independence was signed.

True

3

True or False: The Navy has always existed since it was formed.

False

Notes