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## TUESDAY: Get it straight: The difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day

By [Lisa Respers France](#), CNN

We are here to make sure you don't embarrass yourself.

Inevitably, someone says something demonstrating confusion over the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Allow us to explain it to you.

**Memorial Day:** Celebrated the last Monday in May, Memorial Day is the holiday set aside to pay tribute to those who died serving in the military.

"Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans -- the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) -- established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country."

The passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 by Congress made it an official holiday.

**Veterans Day:** This federal holiday falls on November 11 and is designated as a day to honor all who have served in the military. According to Military.com, Veterans Day began as Armistice Day to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918.

"In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." "With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars."

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST:** In the venn diagram below, identify at least two details that make these days different (two for Memorial Day and two for Veterans Day) and at least one detail the two holidays have in common.

