



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Brainerd VFW

309 South 6th Street Brainerd, MN 56401

<https://www.brainerdvfw.org>

November 11, 2021

Veterans Day radio interview

Veterans Day brings a few dates to mind.

There is Independence Day July 4th when our country was freed from foreign rule, thanks to those who fought for independence.

There is Memorial Day in May when we honor and remember those who died for our country.

Armistice Day, later renamed Veterans Day, was created when WWI ended on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918....103 years ago.

We should also remember those who fought against the Axis powers of Germany and Japan in the global conflict of WWII. The Axis plan was to divide the world and America in two. Germany was going to have everything east of the Mississippi River and Japan would have the west. Which side of the river do you live on? Some 440,000 American servicemembers died between 1941 and 1945 fighting to keep that from happening.

Veterans Day celebrates service to our country by all veterans, regardless of whether or not they saw combat. Being in the military is a commitment to America. Those in service pledge their lives to defend our country.

Some were drafted into service in past wars. I signed up to do the high-tech electronic work I already knew. Things were going well until orders came to go to Vietnam. There is no way to refuse orders and they never said it would be easy. I spent a year in Vietnam under terrible living conditions, but fortunately I lived to be here today.

Everyone has a story about their service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and now the Space Force.

Tuesday, November 9th, 12:30 pm at the Baxter Elementary School. Vets answer questions.

Regarding Veterans Day, November 11th:

Program at Riverside Elementary School at 8:30 am

At the Brainerd High School with speakers and music at 10 am.

Short ceremony at the All-Veterans Memorial at 4th and Laurel Streets about 11 am.

Other schools have similar programs. Masks required

The Honor Guard is made up of veterans from the Brainerd American Legion, Brainerd VFW and the Crow Wing County Disabled American Veterans. They all work together.

Someone asked what they would do if it rains. My reply was these veterans have been through the cold and snow of Korea, the monsoon rains in the steaming jungles of Vietnam and sandstorms and heat in the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan. They will do it regardless of rain, sleet, wind, snow, cold or even COVID. It is to honor all veterans living and dead.

Ideally, the ceremony does a 21-gun salute using seven Honor Guard members with weapons. Also, a person calls the fire, and another person plays Taps. There will be three rifle volleys downtown at 11 am.

I personally am closely associated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The mission of the VFW is veterans helping veterans and the community. It has been for over 100 years. The Brainerd post has been here for over 90 years. Details are at BrainerdVFW.org

The Honor Guard ceremony photos, at the All-Veterans Memorial, will be on the website as a 2021 news story later in the day. BrainerdVFW.org

Contact information:

Mark Persons

teki@mwpersons.com

218-829-1326