




Date: March 20, 2007
To: Honorable Mayor Bob Foster and Members of the City Council
From: Val Lerch, Ninth District Councilmember 
Subject: Veterans Day as a City of Long Beach Holiday

Veteran's Day is the day when our nation recognizes the service of the women and men who have served this nation in the armed forces. As you all know, Veteran's Day was initially known as Armistice Day, and as such recognized the end of World War I – on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Today, we in Long Beach celebrate Veteran's Day with an annual parade – but I believe that this City should formally respect and honor the day by making Veteran's Day an official City holiday.

There are few cities in American that have such a connection to our armed forces as Long Beach. Almost 900 men and women of Long Beach have given their lives in service to their county. Long Beach was home for much of the Pacific Fleet during World War II, and the Long Beach Naval Shipyard made this City a center for active and retired sailors for many decades. And Long Beach is home to the VA Long Beach Medical Center – a significant medical facility that provides on-going care and services for veterans in the region.

Therefore, I request that the City Manager report back to City Council in 30 days on the necessary steps to honor Veterans everywhere making November 11 of each year a City of Long Beach employee holiday.