



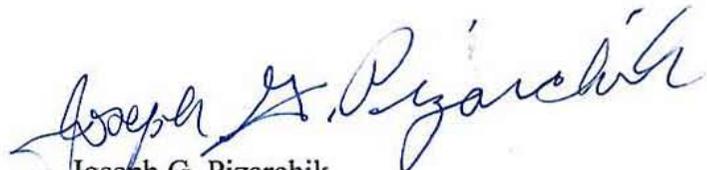
The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)

2014 Veterans Day Message from the Director

On Veterans Day, we pause to honor those who have demonstrated selfless service while defending our Nation during war and peace. As a Nation, it is appropriate to remember the duty and sacrifice required to safeguard our freedoms.

Veterans Day dates back to the World War I era when an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Hence, November 11, 1918, is regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars." In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as Armistice Day. An Act approved on May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday. Several years after the end of World War II, the Act of 1938 was amended by striking the word "Armistice" and inserting the word "Veterans." On June 1, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a Bill making November 11th Veterans Day, a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

This Veterans Day, I encourage you to reflect on the service of veterans and their families. I also ask you to honor our fallen who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country and its principles. Veterans Day is equally important for non-veterans, as an opportunity to learn more about the sacrifices made on their behalf. In keeping with tradition from past generations, America's veterans today, including several within OSMRE, are poised professionals dedicated to helping our bureau and Nation prosper.


Joseph G. Pizarchik
Director