



**Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade**

# **FACT SHEET**

**Saluting Our Nation... 250 Years of Veterans in Service**

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## Veterans Through History

Military veterans throughout America's history span all eras and fields, from legendary leaders like **George Washington** and **Ulysses Grant** to highly decorated soldiers such as **Audie Murphy**, trailblazers like astronaut **Neil Armstrong**, entertainers like **Elvis Presley**, and everyday heroes like **Doris Miller**, all contributing to history through diverse service, courage, and unique experiences in conflicts from the Revolutionary War to modern times, preserving stories via projects like the [Library of Congress Veterans History Project \(VHP\)](#).

Throughout history, military veterans have transitioned from their service to become influential figures in government, the arts, and social movements.

In 1841, for the first time, the U.S. Census Bureau published information about veterans in a special bound volume on the men who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and other American conflicts.

The "who" of military service changed again in 1980, when the census counted women as veterans for the first time. Women had long been connected to the U.S. military, even before they could formally serve or were recognized as veterans for their service.

### ***Key Figures & Eras***

- **Founding Era:** George Washington (Commander-in-Chief, Revolutionary War)
- **Civil War:** Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson
- **World War I:** Alvin York, Eddie Rickenbacker, Jimmy Doolittle
- **World War II:** Audie Murphy (most decorated soldier), Doris "Dorie" Miller (Pearl Harbor hero), Jimmy Stewart (actor), Calvin Graham (youngest WWII soldier)
- **Korean & Vietnam Wars:** Neil Armstrong (Navy pilot), Buzz Aldrin (Air Force), Michael Collins (Air Force), Johnny Cash (Air Force)
- **Modern Conflicts:** Pat Tillman (NFL player turned Army Ranger), Shoshana Johnson (POW in Iraq), Chris Kyle (Navy SEAL)

### ***Famous Veterans Beyond Combat***

- **Actors/Entertainers:** Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Bea Arthur, Tony Bennett (WWII)
- **Astronauts:** Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins (Apollo 11)
- **Leaders:** Colin Powell, Theodore Roosevelt

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### *How Their Stories Are Preserved*

- **Veterans History Project (VHP):** The Library of Congress collects personal narratives, documents, and photos from veterans of all wars to share with future generations
- **National Archives:** Holds military service records (like the [DD-214](#)) and historical documents

### **Diversity in Service**

Veterans include all branches (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force), women (Tammy Duckworth, Dorie Miller, Harriet Tubman), and people from all backgrounds, including the pioneering [Tuskegee Airmen](#).

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