

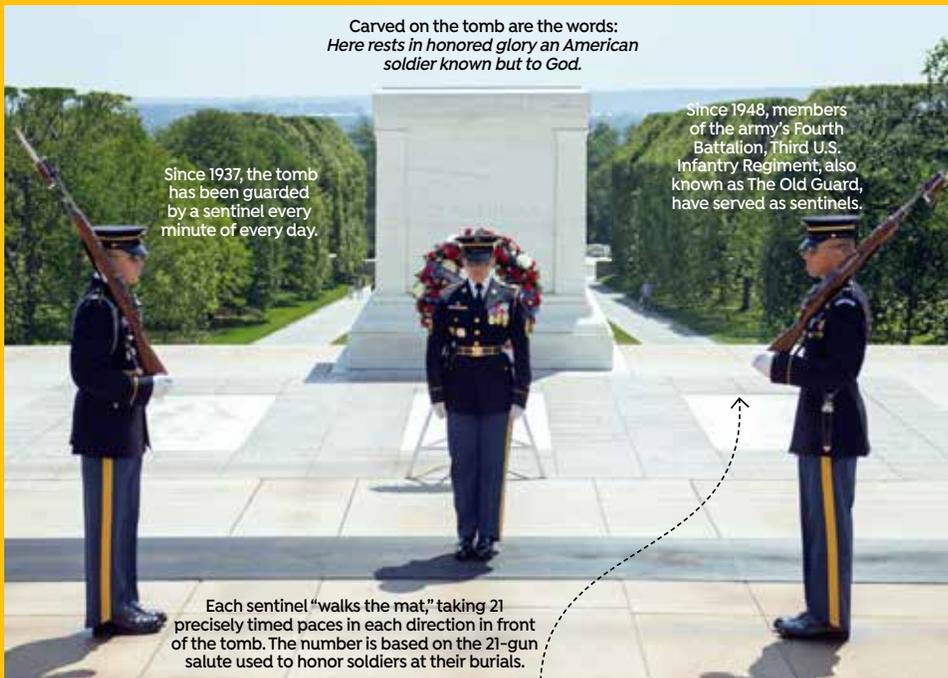
Honor Veterans

Extend kindness to those who served in the Armed Forces. Read about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and make a wreath or star frame to honor the veterans in your life.

November 11, 1921

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, near Washington, D.C.

Created soon after World War I, this memorial site honors members of the United States Armed Forces who died fighting for their country and whose remains could not be identified. The marble tomb lies above the gravesite of an unknown World War I soldier.



Carved on the tomb are the words:
Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God.

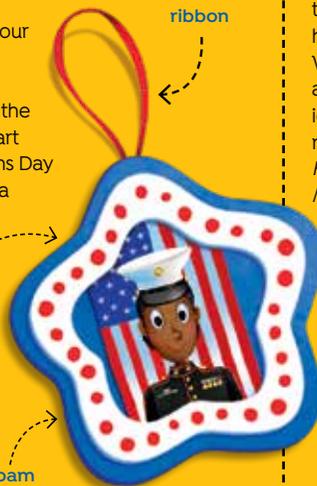
Since 1937, the tomb has been guarded by a sentinel every minute of every day.

Since 1948, members of the army's Fourth Battalion, Third U.S. Infantry Regiment, also known as The Old Guard, have served as sentinels.

Each sentinel "walks the mat," taking 21 precisely timed paces in each direction in front of the tomb. The number is based on the 21-gun salute used to honor soldiers at their burials.

11 AM, NOVEMBER 11

Every year at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, a wreath is placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as part of the National Veterans Day Observance. To honor a veteran, make your own wreath or a star frame.



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier site also holds three graves marked by white marble slabs. Two hold the remains of military personnel from World War II and the Korean War. The third had held a Vietnam War air force officer who was later identified through DNA testing. That gravesite now remains vacant. Its cover bears the inscription *Honoring and Keeping Faith with America's Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975.*

Then-president Calvin Coolidge paid tribute by placing a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Armistice Day 1924.



Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.