

The Business of Veterans Day

By Arnold Stieber

War is a great business. Maybe that's why a day of peace - Armistice Day - has been transformed into a day of veteran recognition and promotion of the military model of conflict resolution by violence. The original Congressional resolution stated that 11/11 "should be commemorated with . . . exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations" and they invited "the people of the United States to observe the day . . . with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples".

We won't hear any of that. Instead on 11/11 we'll hear about "patriotism", "sacrifice", "love of country", and "defending our freedom". We'll see plenty of flags and images of young people in full combat dress - good people trained and ordered to do awful things.

I'm an Army, infantry veteran of the U.S. war against the people of Viet Nam. Please observe 11/11 as it was originally intended. Violence creates more violence, and violence is the fuel for a very profitable business.