

■ STAFF REPORT

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, Veteran's Day is commemorated every year to mark the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France at 5:45 a.m. It commemorates the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at 11 a.m.

In previous generations this moment in time was marked every year by a moment of silence, no matter where you happened to be. In stores, restaurants, banks and other venues, announcements were made on loudspeakers to alert everyone to stop, to pause, and to pay homage. It was awe-inspiring to realize that so many across our country were doing the same thing at the same time, and no one deserves such a tribute as our veterans do. They fought to make this country free, and they continue to do so. We should honor our veteran's every day of the year, not just on

Veteran's Day. Let's take this time to thank those who prepared themselves to sacrifice all for the sake of freedom.

Robert A. Melvin receives the Flying Cross ...

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to Lieutenant Commander Robert A. Melvin, United States Coast Guard, for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the afternoon of 5 January 1980. He was serving as pilot and aircraft commander of Coast Guard HH-3F 1430, engaged in the perilous rescue of eight crewmen from the tug A.W.GUILL which had suffered a complete loss of steering and collided with its barge during a severe winter storm 160-nautical miles northeast of Norfolk, Virginia. As the tug began to sink, the eight-man crew was forced to abandon ship into a life raft.

Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Lieutenant Commander Melvin piloted the helicopter to the scene. The flight was made at altitudes less than 100 feet due to near-blizzard and icing conditions.

An inoperative radar and unreliable navigational signals due to low altitude flight further complicated matters. Utilizing dead-reckoning headings obtained via HF radio from Air Station Elizabeth City and DF vectors from a

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Heroes**