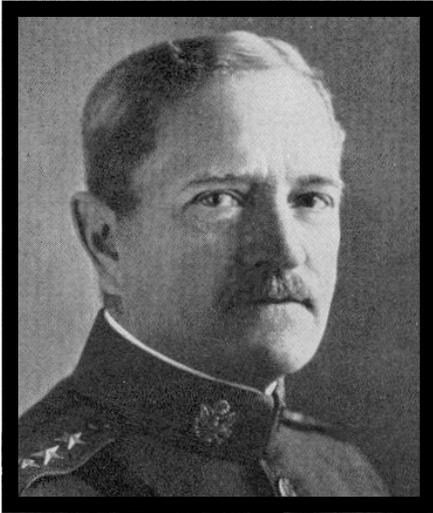


VETERANS' DAY



General John J. Pershing
(Member El Paso Lodge 187)

**COMMANDER
AMERICAN
EXPEDITIONARY
FORCES
WORLD WAR I**



Formerly ARMISTICE DAY, this holiday was originated to commemorate the termination of hostilities in World War I. The Armistice was signed at 11 A.M., November 11, 1918, by General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, a member of El Paso Elks Lodge No. 187.

General Pershing fully understood the importance that we, as Elks, place on the Hour of Eleven in remembering our deceased members. His signing the Armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month brought special meaning to the Hour of Eleven and this holiday honoring our nation's heroes.

The Order of Elks strongly supports the preservation of November 11 as VETERANS' DAY.

"Remember our Veterans. All Gave Some ... Some Gave All!"

Upon his triumphant return to America from the battlefields of France, General John J. Pershing, who had been an Elk and had given many evidences of his interest in, and loyalty to, the Order, was honored with a formal public reception in the city of New York on September 9, 1919. On that eventful occasion he withdrew for a time from his public appearance in order to greet officials and members of the Order in the Lodge Room of New York Lodge #1. In an address there, he graciously referred to his membership in the Order, and said,

"No one knows better than an Elk what the Order stands for; and realizing, as I do, just what the vows of an Elk require him to do, prescribing in many ways the conduct of his life, I can readily appreciate, and do appreciate, the great work that has been accomplished by this Order."

"We, who were fortunate enough to be sent to the battlefields of Europe to represent our people, felt that we had a united nation behind us; and I know of no organization or body of men whose patriotism, whose loyalty and whose benevolence have contributed in a greater degree to making that a possibility. We have felt not only the spirit of your patriotism, but we have felt the national benefit of your efforts to carry forward the principles for which America has stood in this war."