



Ramer Display at Bucknell University

November 11

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year 1918 marked the ceasefire on the western front of World War I with the armistice signed by the Allies and Germany.

Armistice Day became a national holiday in the United States and many European countries (called Remembrance Day) to honor and remember those killed in The Great War. President Woodrow Wilson first declared an Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. The US Congress in 1938 named November 11 "a day...dedicated to the cause of world peace...known as Armistice Day."

In 1954, during the term of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, November 11 was renamed Veterans Day in order to honor all veterans of the US armed forces.

Medal of Honor

The highest honor accorded a member of the services is the Congressional Medal of Honor. Awarded for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and above and beyond the call of duty," the medal was established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1862. Original recipients served in the Civil War, with medals awarded in each of the nation's subsequent conflicts, for deeds of extraordinary, life-threatening personal bravery or self-sacrifice.

The Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to **Second Lieutenant George H. Ramer**, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine

Division (Reinforced), is on display in the lobby of the Union County Courthouse, on loan from the Jeanne Ramer Reichley family.

George H. Ramer was born in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, March 27, 1927. He graduated from Lewisburg High School in 1944 and enlisted in the Navy, where he served until 1946. He graduated from Bucknell University in February 1950 with a degree in Political Science and History and taught Civics, History and "Problems of Democracy" at Lewisburg High School.

Having attended Marine Corps Reserve training, Ramer was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps, and was called to active duty, at his own request, in January 1951, and was sent to Korea in May 1951.

Ramer was mortally wounded while single-handedly protecting his group of men as they withdrew and evacuated 3 fatally wounded Marines. They had been attempting to overtake a heavily armed, hill-top enemy position. Ramer ordered his men to withdraw and continued to provide cover until he was killed in action. George Ramer died September 12, 1951 at age 24.

There were 131 Medal of Honor recipients for service during the Korean War, 94 of which were given posthumously. George H. Ramer's award was presented to his widow, Jeanne Ramer, in January 1953.

The display in the lobby of the Union County Courthouse, containing Ramer's Medal of Honor, other military awards and citation from President Harry Truman can be seen during regular business hours Monday through Friday. Further information on

Union County military history can be found at the Union County Historical Society office in the courthouse and at the following sources: www1.va.gov; www.medalofhonor.com.