

Veterans of UCHRA Honored on Veteran's Day

By

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Cookeville- In a simple but touching ceremony, employees gathered in the Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency's (UCHRA) home office to pay tribute to the employees that once served this great nation in the Armed Forces.

According to the Veterans Administration website, "World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. Fighting had ceased seven months earlier when an armistice or cease fire, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." "

"Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars."

The UCHRA ceremony began with a welcome from the Executive Director, Ruth Ann Woolbright, who thanked those who had gathered to honor our veterans. A stirring rendition of "God Bless America" was led by Charles West, UCHRA's Older Worker program Manager. The featured keynote speaker was Perry D. Roberts (retired) National Executive Committeeman from the American Legion. Roberts also thanked those who had served and captivated the crowd with his personal historic view of serving in Vietnam.

The veterans from the UCHRA recognized and given an opportunity to tell of their duties and service were: Mark Pafford, Pat Callahan, Gaywon Ferrell, Lee Webb, Gary Bumbalough,

Danny Hill, Darwin Carter, Brian Swearngen, Leslie Turner, Chris Kirouac, LaLonna Kuehn, and Jack Nieves. All the veterans were given a certificate of appreciation. The Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency is proud to have these employees who selflessly served to defend our country and freedoms.

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Cutline: On Veterans Day 2011, The Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency paid tribute to those who had served in the U S Armed Forces with a ceremony and certificate of appreciation. From the left are: Danny Hill, Pat Callahan, LaLonna Kuehn, Keynote Speaker Perry Roberts (retired), Darwin Carter, Gary Bumbalough, and Lee Webb. Veterans not pictured: Gaywon Ferrell, Mark Pafford, Brian Swearngen, Leslie Turner, Chris Kirouac, and Jack Nieves.