

## **Veterans Day**

The term “veteran” will always be one of honor and distinction. I’ve had the privilege of serving with a number of outstanding Soldiers. They led me, mentored me, guided me, advised me and helped me become a better Soldier and a better person. Most of them have since left the service, and more than a few have passed away. All of these veterans have earned my undying gratitude for what they did for me and for my fellow Soldiers.

The Quad Cities area is home to thousands of veterans, and in my time here I’ve noticed that many of them are active in the community as well as being part of the Rock Island Arsenal workforce. Just as they gave of themselves while in uniform, these veterans are continuing to serve by using their time and talents to benefit charitable and civic organizations. Their example of concerned and active citizenship is one that all of us would do well to follow.

Those working on the Arsenal perform their missions today with the same diligence and devotion to duty that they showed while in uniform performing their military missions. These veterans are continuing to contribute to our nation’s defense, and deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication.

All of our veterans are owed a debt that simply cannot be repaid. All have earned our utmost respect, and our heartfelt thanks for what they did for us in the past and continue to do for us today. We, as a community, must continue to reach out to our veterans in need, we must offer them care, assistance and understanding, and provide them with hope for a better life.

Veterans Day is an important and meaningful holiday. None of us should lose sight of its significance. This Veterans Day, please take the time to honor our veterans in some way and to show your appreciation for their service. Our veterans offered us their very best while they served, so we should offer them our very best in return. Airborne!  
Thank you,

**Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine**  
**Commanding General, U.S. Army Sustainment Command**