

NOVEMBER – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Daniel Boone

Daniel Boone was born on November 2, 1734, near Reading, Pennsylvania. He received little formal education and was taught how to read and write by his mother. His father taught him survival skills, and he proved himself to be a brave and skilled woodsman and hunter. He was given his first rifle at age twelve and shot his first bear. When Boone was fifteen, he moved with his family to Rowan County, North Carolina, on the Yadkin River. There he started his own hunting business. In 1775, he settled an area he called Boonesborough in Kentucky. He married and had six children but found it difficult to stay still. Wilderness tales reawakened the frontiersman in him. To satisfy his yearning for adventure, he would occasionally leave his family and lead hunting and exploring expeditions. He also served in the military and on the local legislature. Many tall tales are told of Daniel Boone.

2. Veterans Day

Veterans Day became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. It began as Armistice Day and commemorated the temporary end to hostilities between the Allied Nations and Germany in World War I. This original armistice (cessation) took place on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. That is why Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11th each year. After World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day, a holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars.

3. National American Indian Heritage Month

This observance began as “American Indian Week” in November of 1986 when Congress requested that President Ronald Reagan make the proclamation recognizing the accomplishments of the peoples who were the original inhabitants, explorers, and settlers of the United States. The following is a quote from the proclamation. *“Many of the foods we eat and the medicines and remedies we use were introduced by Indians and more than one highway follows an Indian trail. Indians make contributions in every area of endeavor and American life, and our literature and our arts draw upon Indian themes and wisdom. Countless American Indians have served in our Armed Forces and have fought valiantly for our country.”* In 1990, Congress passed a law authorizing the United States President to proclaim November as “National American Indian Heritage Month”. Each president since that time has made such a proclamation. These proclamations celebrate the contributions of the American Indians and urge the peoples of the United States to learn more about the American Indian cultures.