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SALUTING FLEET'S MILITARY VETERANS

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November 11, 1918 was a historic day. 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month marked the armistice and cessation of hostilities that ended World War I. This date would soon be recognized by the U.S. government as Armistice Day. Since 1954, November 11 has been designated as Veterans Day, a national holiday.

Veterans Day gives us a chance to reflect on the sacrifices made by veterans of the armed forces and their families in service to our country. We also remember those on active duty in the United States and around the world. Many are our colleagues. Men and women from New York City fleet services have served and continue to serve their nation with distinction, in every branch of the military. Many fleet staff learned their trades originally in the armed forces before joining NYC government. We are proud of all of the City's and Fleet's veterans and active members of the Guard or reserves and recognize them this week.

Stories of three fleet veterans are below. We have also begun a list of all of Fleet's veterans to post on the Fleet internet site. Please email NYCFleet@dcas.nyc.gov if you would like to be included in the list.

Gennaro "Gino" J. Finelli is an Auto Mechanic who has been with NYPD for 23 years. He is one of the few veterans in Fleet, or anywhere, to have served for both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. He was stationed in Lebanon from 1980-83 with the Navy, where he was an aviation and jet engine warfare specialist, pistol and rifle expert, and an Italian translator. From 1983 to 2002 Gino was with the U.S. Army Reserve, where he became a veteran of Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He was both a tank mechanic and tank commander with the U.S. Army. At NYPD, he repairs Crown Victorias, Priuses, vans, and anything light duty at Shop 6. Gino was born in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn and now lives in Staten Island with his wife and two daughters (pictured).



George Johnson is an Auto Mechanic at DSNY field operations. He has served closer to home, with the U.S. Coast Guard. George participated in port security, boat engineering, and Search & Rescue for Coast Guard Station New York, both active duty from 1980-84 and reserve duty from 1987-99. His Coast Guard duties included a wide array of action, such as interdicting waterway drug runners, putting out fires on vessels and shorefronts, and major repairs to various Coast Guard vessels. At DSNY George has worked on every type of truck including collection trucks, rack trucks, and sweepers, and currently helps to coordinate training programs for maintenance staff.

Robert Lucey is a Supervisor of Mechanics at FDNY, and served with the U.S. Marine Corps from 1984-88. He specialized in vehicle maintenance and recovery for the Marines. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton stateside, and then at Iwakuni, Japan. Since 1988, Robert has worked for the City, first as a Service Worker at Department of General Services (DGS), the predecessor to DCAS, and then with FDNY since 1991 as an Auto Mechanic. At FDNY, Robert has worked in the pumper section, ladder section, night crew, ambulance shop, and body shop before his SOME training. He is pictured to the right in the pumper section with Auto Mechanic Steven Johnson, himself a veteran of the U.S. Army.

