



# Bells of Peace



## What is the National Bell Tolling?

Bells of Peace is a national tolling of bells to honor those who served in the Great War. The United States participated from April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918.

## Why should we toll the bells?

Tolling of bells is the traditional way to mark someone's passing. On special national occasions, bells are tolled in honor of the fallen. November 11 is the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended hostilities in World War I. In the war, 116,516 Americans died and over 200,000 were wounded.

## When is the National Bell Tolling?

On Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. local time across the United States and its territories.

## Where will the National Bell Tolling take place?

In communities, houses of worship, cemeteries, military installations, ships at sea - anywhere that Americans gather to honor their veterans.

## Who is sponsoring the National Bell Tolling?

The City of Cambridge Veterans' Services Department, the Cambridge Mayor's and City Manager's Office, and the US World War I Centennial Commission are the sponsors. The Commission was created by Act of Congress in 2013 to honor, commemorate, and educate the public about American participation in World War I. The Pritzker Military Museum and Library, the National Cathedral, and the Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

## How can my community group participate?

At 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, toll your bells slowly 21 times with a five-second interval between tolls. Groups that do not have bells can render the salute by other available means such as guns, cannons, rifles, and sirens. No bell? No worries. You can play tolling bells on your smartphone privately or with public address systems.

## Why is it important to toll the bells 21 times? We would rather toll our bell once in honor of each of our local veterans killed in combat.

The 21 tolls of the bell symbolize the nation's highest honor. It is based on the 21-gun salute. We suggest you toll your bells 21 times and follow that with an individual toll for each veteran you wish to honor, stating their name before each toll. The ceremony could conclude with Taps or a solemn reading.

