

# SOUNDSIDE LEARNING

## THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

### Proud to Serve

Meet Todd Nelson, the son of Curt and Linda Nelson, grandson of Curtis and Reva Pearl Nelson and Kenneth and Rosalee Willis. He's an Island boy who credits his Down East heritage with preparing him for his admirable US Coast Guard career. When asked to explain, Nelson shared, "I was the son of a preacher and come from a very religious family. Leadership in any organization is about taking care of people, valuing them and helping them succeed in life. If watching my father as a pastor taught me anything, it was the value of compassion, empathy, truly caring for the people under you and supporting them in everything you do. The old saying is that "it takes a village to raise a child," well my village of Harkers Island, and by extension all of Down East, helped mold me into the man I became."

Nelson's ECHS baseball coach, Chuck Lewis, was the first to discuss the Coast Guard Academy with him which ultimately led to an application, acceptance and decision to attend. He entered in 1981, played football for 2.5 years until an injury ended his career, played baseball all four years (named Most Outstanding Player his senior year), graduated in 1985 and was commissioned as an Ensign/O-1 in the US Coast Guard.

After graduating from the Academy, Nelson's first duty assignment was the USCGC CHILULA stationed in Atlantic Beach, NC. His first unit in the Coast Guard was aboard the ship that his grandfather, Curtis Nelson, retired from decades before. While on the CHILULA, Nelson was a law enforcement officer, communications officer and deck watch officer. Later came roles as an instructor at the Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, VA, an Executive Officer at Fort Macon, a law school student at the University of Miami School of Law, a Judge Advocate attorney for US Coast Guard 17th District in Juneau, AK, a Commanding Officer with the Coast Guard Group in Moriches, NY, and, lastly, a Staff Judge Advocate/General Counsel at the United States Coast Guard Academy.

After retirement, Nelson taught in our Carteret County School System for eleven years. For the past six years he has been practicing law providing basic estate planning services and advice with respect to elder care to Carteret County families.

Nelson humbly reflects, "Ultimately while I am proud of my military service and wouldn't trade a minute of it for any other life I could have lived, my story is one of a Harkers Island family. It is a community, the people, the churches, the schools, all nurturing a desire to give back and serve in our communities and our country. It is a heritage of service that you can find in the small communities that are the backbone of our country. Harkers Island happens to be mine, but there are others who have given just as much. That is why I give my time to the Heritage Center, it is a legacy and heritage that we should recognize and celebrate!"



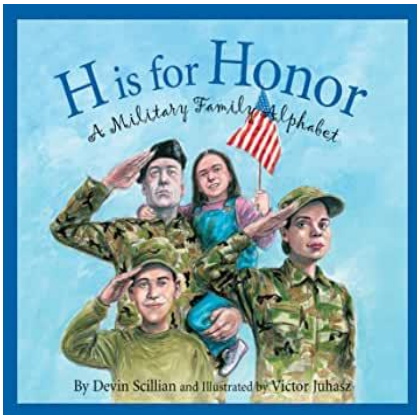
Todd Nelson, retired US Coast Guard Commander

# What is Veterans Day?

## COMING UP AT CORE SOUND

- **November 18:** *Gallery of Trees Opening Night, 7-9 PM*
- **December 2:** *Core Sound Chow Down, 5:30--9:30 PM*
- **December 2-4:** *Waterfowl Weekend*

## Sound Reading Material For You & Your Child



### **H is for Honor: A Military Family Alphabet**

By Devin Scillian

Written by the son of a career officer, this book explores the branches of the Armed Services and speaks from the heart about the honor, privileges and sacrifices of military families everywhere. With an underlying message of courage and commitment that every child can relate to, the book will be especially meaningful to those whose parents, siblings or other relatives serve in the Armed Forces.

Grade Level: 1-4  
Pages: 40

First celebrated as Armistice Day, the day marked the end of World War I. It was at that time recognized on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918.

Today we continue to celebrate the day as Veterans Day, still recognizing the original tie with November 11. That means Veterans Day is on the same day every year -- November 11 -- regardless of which day of the week it falls. When the date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, government officials or businesses may recognize it on both the official day and the following Monday.

In the late 1960s Congress passed a law intended to stimulate the economy by adding more three-day weekends. They thought it would help encourage travel and other recreation. The "Uniform Monday Holiday Act" made Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Columbus Day and Veterans Day all Mondays. But many states disagreed with the choice, especially since Veterans Day was designated as November 11 for historic reasons. So, in September 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a law returning Veterans Day to November 11 starting in 1978.

This may seem like a silly grammar choice, but it is "*Veterans Day*," not "*Veteran's Day*." The Department of Veterans Affairs notes that *Veterans Day* is a day for recognizing the veterans still with us.

