With over sixty five years of experience, the Penn Naval ROTC program seeks to train the most technically and tactically proficient officers to serve in the United States Navy and Marine Corps. For more information please go to the Penn NROTC web page: http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/nrotc/index.html

The University of Pennsylvania Military Veterans Association (UPMVA) is a support and social function organization for current and former military members affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania. For more information please go to the UPMVA webpage: http://www.upennveterans.org/welcome/

Veterans Day Flag Raising Ceremony

Friday, November 10, 2017
9:00 A.M.

University of Pennsylvania Campus
College Green – Locust Walk
Order of Program

Opening Words
Catherine Revak, US Army Veteran, SP2 doctoral student

Pledge of Allegiance
The Penn NROTC Battalion

Presentation of Colors
Penn NROTC Color Guard

National Anthem – The Star Spangled Banner
Karis L. Stephen – Platt Performing Arts Student

Invocation
Charles Howard, University Chaplain

Featured Guest Remarks
Aronda Smith-Benson – US Army Veteran, Graduate Student, SAS

Recognition of our Veterans in Attendance
Ralph J. De Lucia, Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity Programs

Moment of Silence

Closing Song – America the Beautiful
Karis L. Stephen – Platt Performing Arts Student

HISTORY OF VETERAN’S DAY

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. ”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed 11 November as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on 4 June 1926. 11 November became a national holiday beginning in 1938. The day honors living military veterans with parades and speeches across the nation.

Aronda Smith-Benson

Aronda served honorably in the United States Army as a medic. She deployed for Operation Desert Shield/Storm with 3rd Armored Division – 45th Support Battalion.

Aronda is also the first female and youngest appointed (2013-2018) member of the City Council Veterans Advisory Commission of Philadelphia since its inception in 1957. She is a recipient of the Women Veterans Rock – Leaders and Legends Award, Women Veterans Leadership Award, Community Gem Award, and the Unsung Hero Service Award.

This event is sponsored by Penn’s Office of Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity Programs, VPUL TRIO: Veterans Upward Bound, and Penn’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.