

Eritrean Veterans Day - 2017

Date: 05 August 2017

Venue: Any city you live in

Dear fellow Eritreans:

We - Eritreans living throughout the diaspora - took a common initiative last year, to set aside one day in our calendar year and celebrate said day as “Eritrean Veterans Day”.

A group composed of former freedom fighters (Tegadeltys) from different factions, branded the **First Saturday of August** as a common date to celebrate in any locations/country we might reside. We debated and agreed to choose this date in remembrance of an historic event in the Eritrean struggle for independence. This is a day that united the wish for peace of the Eritrean people and the liberation fighters as well. Accordingly, we celebrated our first “**Eritrean Veterans Day**” last year, on Saturday 06 August **2016**.

Since then, the news spread and the support for this initiative increased enormously among Eritreans in Diaspora.

Thus, we are due to celebrate our Second “**Eritrean Veterans Day**” for this year, on **Saturday 05 August 2017**.

Historical background of the reason the First week of August was chosen

Detailed explanation is given on the Eritrean Veterans’ website (see below); herewith is one of the main reasons:

Saddened by the destructive civil war waged among the Eritrean liberation movements (ELF & EPLF) in August 1974, thousands of Eritrean civilians risked their lives by leaving a besieged Asmara and risk their lives of being killed by the occupier’s troops and Ethiopian Air Force, in order to mediate between the two warring brotherly factions; along with the population of local villages they mediated and won the support to stop the fight between the groups composed of brothers and sisters. This was the outcome of several secret meetings of members of the two fighting factions. The mediation’s results was the establishment of a Unity-Committee comprising members from the two organizations (ELF & EPLF). Henceforward, this historic event in our country’s history, it prevented the enemy of winning among our differences and created a unity that led to our Independence.

At this juncture of our life - and 26 years after our Independence – our very first government neglected to create a day that could embrace all Veterans and call it “Eritrean Veterans Day” among the many historical days it created after our independence (Martyrs’ Day, Independence Day and more).

Such a day would only express the gratitude our Veterans deserve. It encourages to say thank you to those who fulfilled the patriotic duty to give and maintain freedom in our country. It is a day to commemorate with giving prayers and exercise a perpetual peace.

Through the good will among our Veterans and our people, the Eritrean Veterans' Day will honor the duty, the sacrifices and services of our Freedom fighters, our Martyrs and the present Army. It is simply a day of gratitude towards those that gave their lives and gave us freedom from oppression and occupation.

Time has come to say "Thank you" to our Veterans for bravely doing the painful job of providing freedom so we could safely reach heights as a country independent of occupation by Ethiopia.

Eritrea is free because of the brave men and women that gave their lives so we could live ours.

Our flags wave freely because of the last breath our Martyrs gave. Freedom never comes free. Many paid the price to give it to us. An Eritrean Veterans' Day will honor these men and women.

You are cordially invited to join us and be part of this honorable day.

Please bring along anything you would like to share such as historical documents and/or facts, photos. Sharing your experiences with others during the celebration of this day, will make it valuable and you will add your own story to our national history.

We thank you.

E-mail: Eritreanvets@gmail.com

Please visit our temporary website for more information:

<http://snitna.com/eritreanveteransday.html>