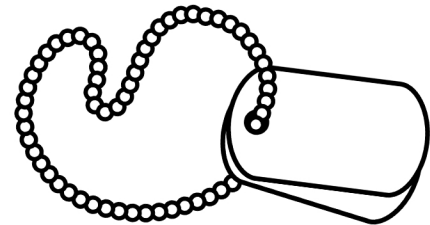
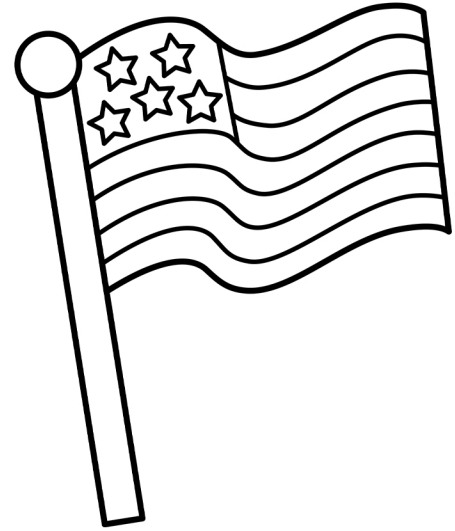
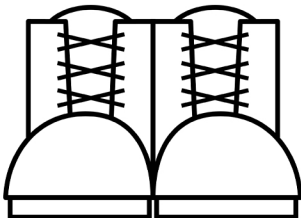


Every year on the third Saturday in May, we celebrate Armed Forces Day! This special day honors all the brave men and women who serve in the United States military right now.

Our military has six branches that protect our country. The Army protects on land. The Navy guards the oceans and seas. The Marine Corps works on land and at sea. The Air Force flies planes and protects the sky. The Coast Guard keeps our coasts safe. The Space Force, our newest branch, protects us in space!



Armed Forces Day began in 1950. Before that year, each military branch had its own celebration day. President Harry Truman wanted one special day to honor everyone serving together. That's when all the branches joined under one Department of Defense.



On Armed Forces Day, many towns hold parades where people wave flags and cheer for our service members. Military bases often open their doors so families can see planes, ships, and equipment up close. It's a day to say thank you to the heroes who keep us safe.

You can celebrate by thanking a service member, learning about the military branches, or displaying an American flag!