

# MEMORIAL DAY

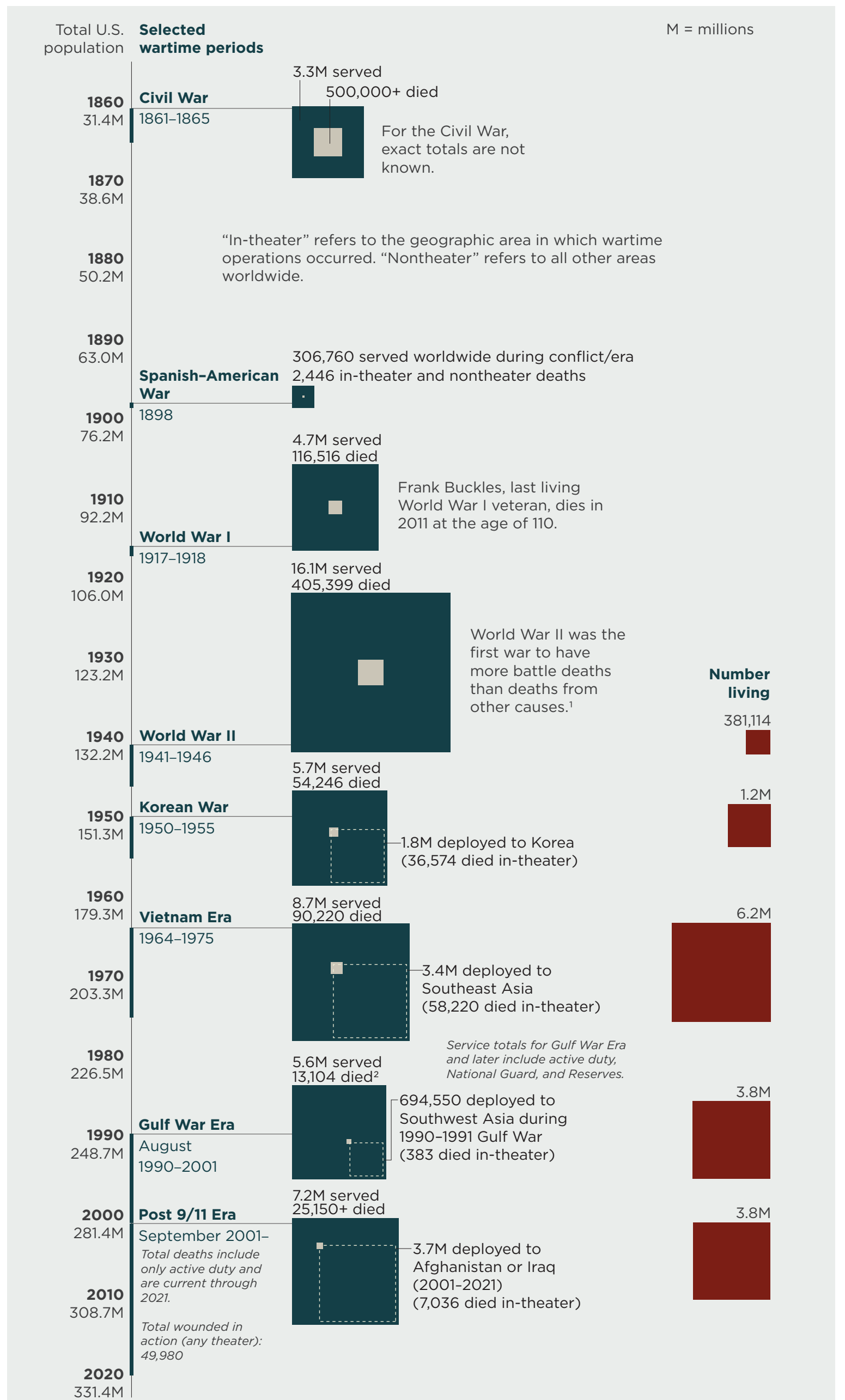
Honoring America's Wartime Veterans



## WHAT IS MEMORIAL DAY?

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance of those who died in service to their country. The holiday was officially proclaimed in 1868 to honor Union and Confederate soldiers and was expanded after World War I to honor those who died in all wars. Today, Memorial Day honors over one million men and women who have died in military service since the Civil War.

This infographic compiles statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Defense to honor our men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces. The Census Bureau gathers detailed information on living veterans from the American Community Survey (ACS). Private businesses, nonprofits, community organizations, and federal, state, and community leaders use ACS statistics to determine the programs, services, and infrastructure that best serve the needs of our veterans. The Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center provides statistics on the number of people who served and died in each of our nation's wars.

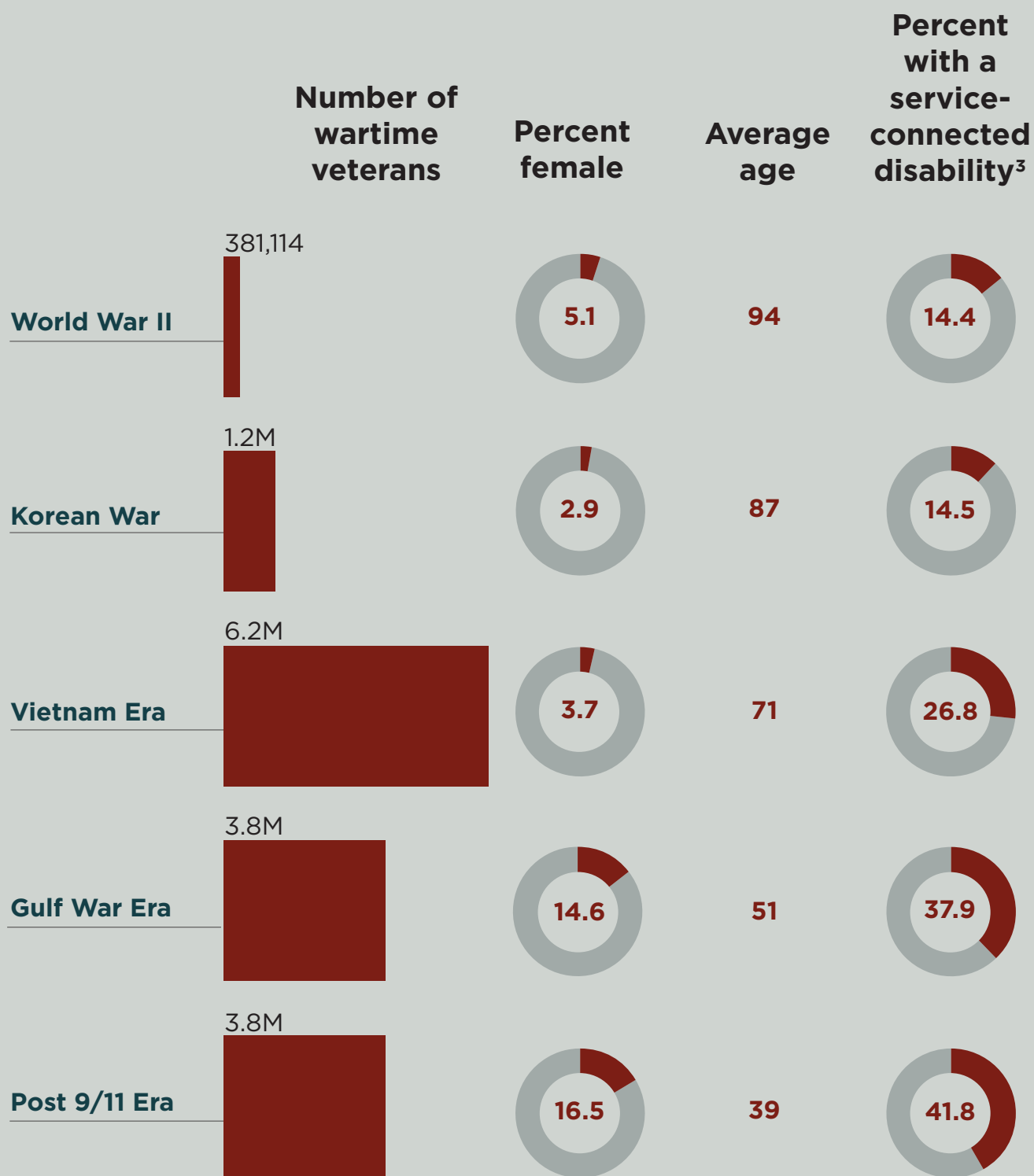
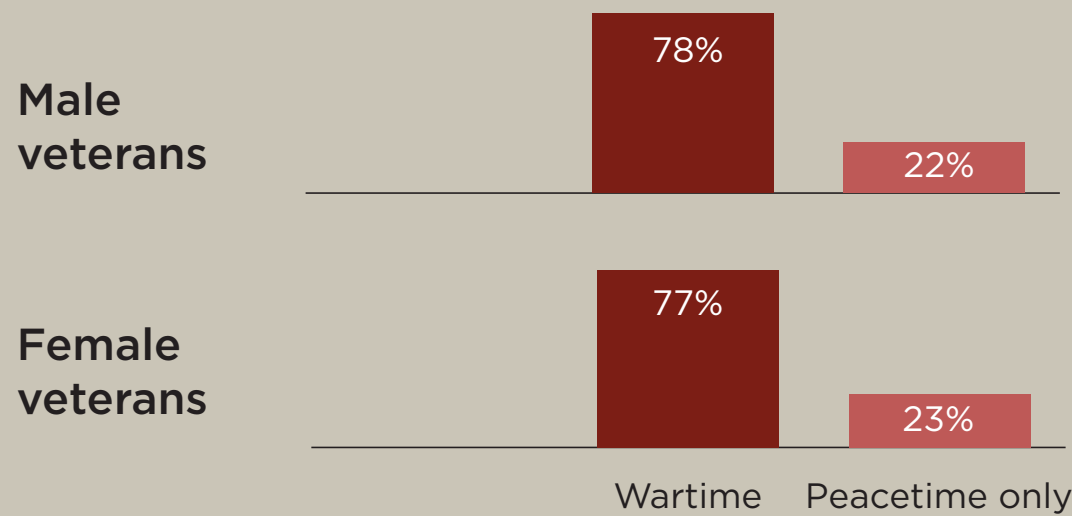


# Wartime Veterans in 2019

American Community Survey

## 13.6 MILLION

of the 17.5 million living veterans of the U.S. armed forces served on active duty during a period of war.



<sup>3</sup> "Service-connected disability" means the disability was a result of disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.

Notes: Data from the ACS include the veteran population 18 years and older who live in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Periods of military service are not mutually exclusive. Veterans could have served in multiple periods.

More information on the ACS is available at <[www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.



## Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor was created during the Civil War and is the nation's highest honor for valor in combat. To date, more than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded. The only woman to receive it was Dr. Mary Walker in 1865.

