

Otto's Tales



TODAY IS

VETERANS DAY!

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Otto's Tales

TODAY IS
VETERANS DAY!



Ruff Ruff! Today is Veterans Day.

It's a holiday when we thank the men and women who have served our country in the military.

My best friend Dennis climbed onto the couch and tossed the pillows and cushions to the floor.

"We can use these to build a fort," he said.





“And a tank!” I barked. “It can be our time machine. We can travel all around to learn about our brave veterans.”

“It’s time for another adventure, Otto,” said Dennis. “Let’s go!”

ZOOM...We got into our tank and started our trip.

Dennis grabbed the wheel with a fierce and fiesty grip.

We **ZOOMED** back in time and stopped with a **BAM!**

“I recognize that poster,” said Dennis. “That’s **Uncle Sam!**”

His tall hat had stars, his suit red, white, and blue.

He pointed his finger at us and said, “I WANT YOU.”

“Dennis, I know our time travel to the past is only temporary, but Uncle Sam wants us to join the military.”





“Otto, did you know that millions of Americans have been called to serve? When they join the military, the Constitution they swear to preserve.”

“I can be brave, Dennis, let’s go join the fight.”

“Yes, Otto, we will join the **Army** to do what is right.”



Uncle Sam leapt from the poster and came off the wall.
“Wow, Uncle Sam,” I shouted, “you are very tall!”



Uncle Sam said, "There are many parts of the military; I'll take you on a tour."

"Thanks," said Dennis, "we want to see how they keep us secure."



Then **ZOOM...**off we went to meet groups of soldiers. They drove huge tanks and had rifles on their shoulders.

I pointed and said, “Look, Dennis, at our brave troops.” We ran over to them and called, “Hello!” to the groups.

“Hi, there,” said a female soldier. “Are you a new recruit?”

“I’m Dennis; this is Otto. He’s my dog, and super cute.”

"I serve in the Army," she said. "We're the forces on the ground. We go into battle and drive tanks all around."

Dennis said, "That means you fight for America on the land."

"Yes," she said, "we serve in the mountains and on the sand."

"Thank you for your service!"
Dennis shouted nice and loud.

"Serving in the Army," she said,
"makes me very proud."



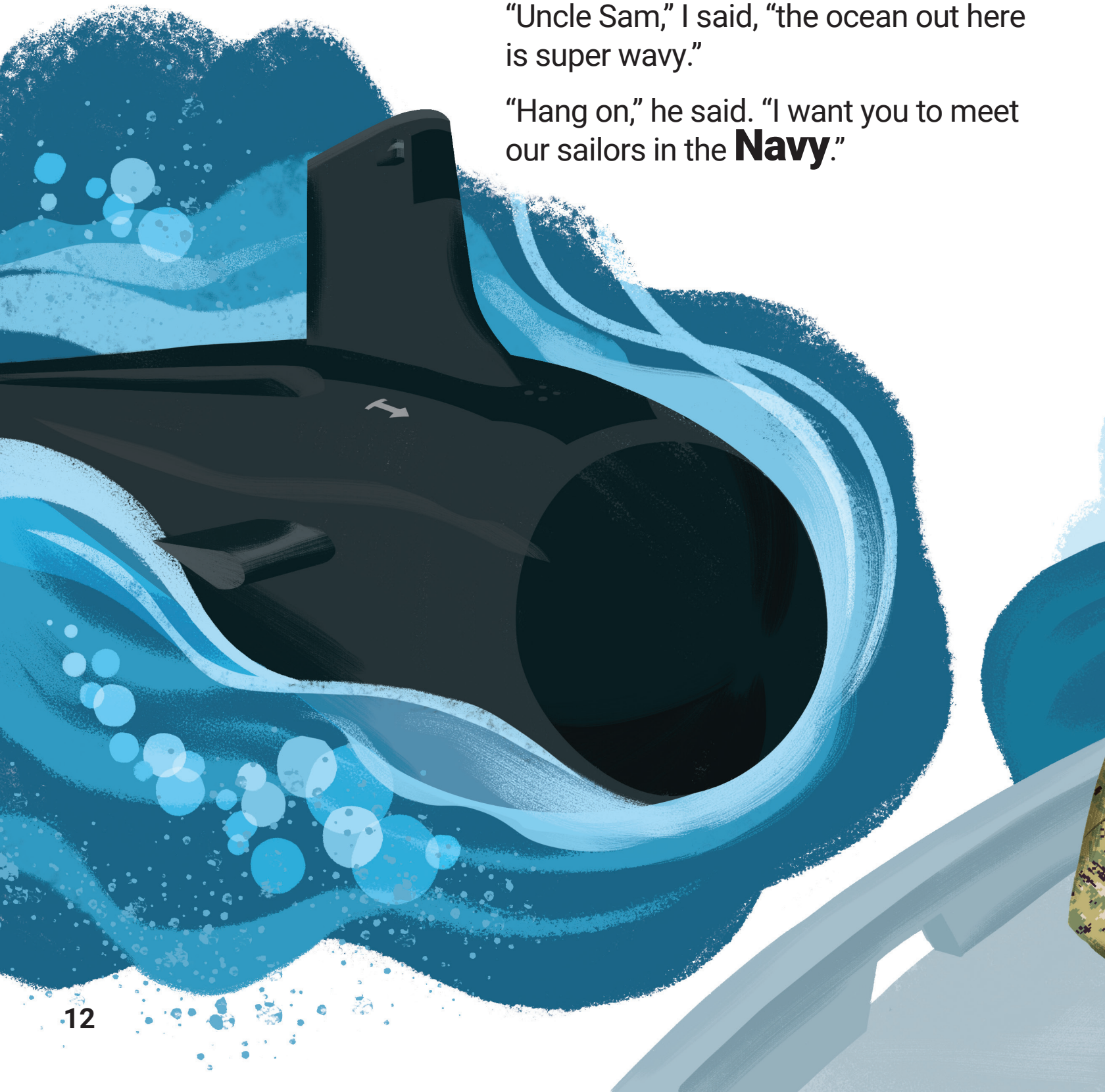
Then **ZOOM...** off we went with a crazy, **ZOOMING** motion. Our tank became a submarine and dropped into the ocean.

“Look at this, Otto, we’re on a submarine!”

“Wow, Dennis, this is the coolest thing I’ve ever seen.”

“Uncle Sam,” I said, “the ocean out here is super wavy.”

“Hang on,” he said. “I want you to meet our sailors in the **Navy.**”



Dennis asked, "Why does the Navy serve our country on the sea?"

"We protect the waters," a sailor said, "to keep us safe and free."

"You patrol the waters to protect us from enemies?"

"Yes," said the sailor. "We've been protecting America since the 1770s."

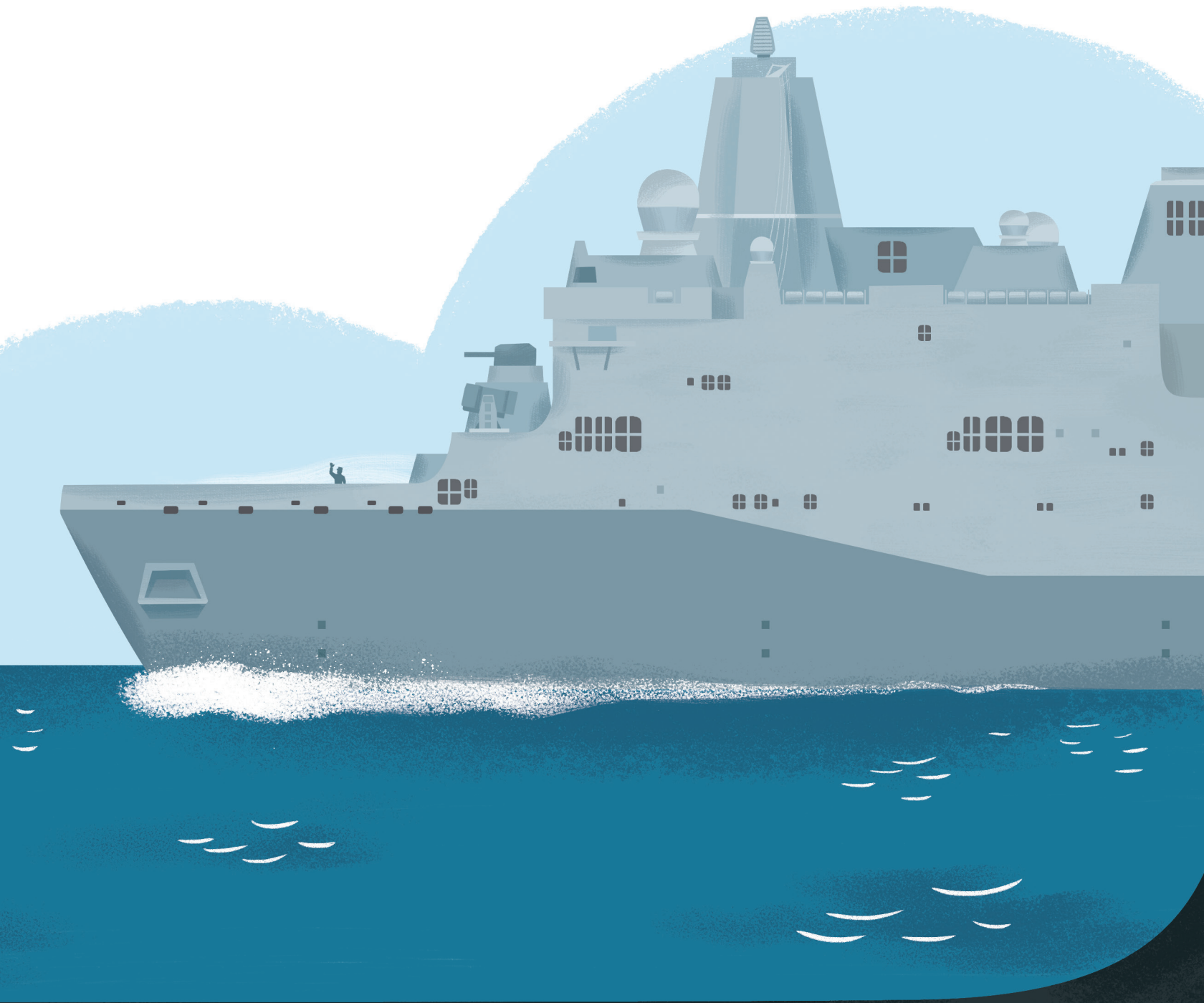


“Wow,” I said. “For us, you sail the ocean blue.
So, we want to take this opportunity to truly thank you!”

“Thank you for your service,”
Dennis said to him with glee.

“We love our brave armed forces
in the military!”





“You’re welcome,” said the sailor. “I believe it’s my duty.”

“Your love for our country,” said Dennis, “is a thing of beauty!”

“Goodbye!” we said, with Uncle Sam still by our side.

We got into the submarine and continued on our ride.

Then **ZOOM...**our submarine turned into a jet in the sky.
We flew into the clouds, up very, very high.

“Now,” said Uncle Sam, “let’s meet the **Air Force** and the pilots who fly.
Watch as they swoosh upward and zoom right by!”

Dennis said, “There’s a pilot flying a fighter jet right now!”

“Look at that, Dennis,” I barked, “Oh, wow!”





Dennis asked the pilot, “Why do you zoom through the air in these super-fast jets?”

The pilot said, “The Air Force surveys the sky and protects us from threats.”

“Your jet is so fast,” I said. “It has so much power!”

“Yes,” said the pilot. “We can fly anywhere in just a few hours.”



“Thank you for your service,” Dennis and I did say.

“We love our military, but we must be on our way!”

“Hang on, Otto,” said Dennis, and **ZOOM...** away we flew.

“We love our armed forces, Uncle Sam, and are grateful for what they do.”



Our jet stopped with a **SCREECH** on our **National Mall**.
There stood the **Washington Monument**—it was
so very tall!

We saw an old man sitting a few yards away.
He looked like a veteran in his military beret.

“Hi, we’re Otto and Dennis, and we like your hat.”
“Thank you,” he said and beside him we sat.



“I was in the military a long time ago.
I swore to protect America against any foe.”

Talking to this veteran filled us both with pride.
His sacrifice made me grateful,
so a little tear I cried.



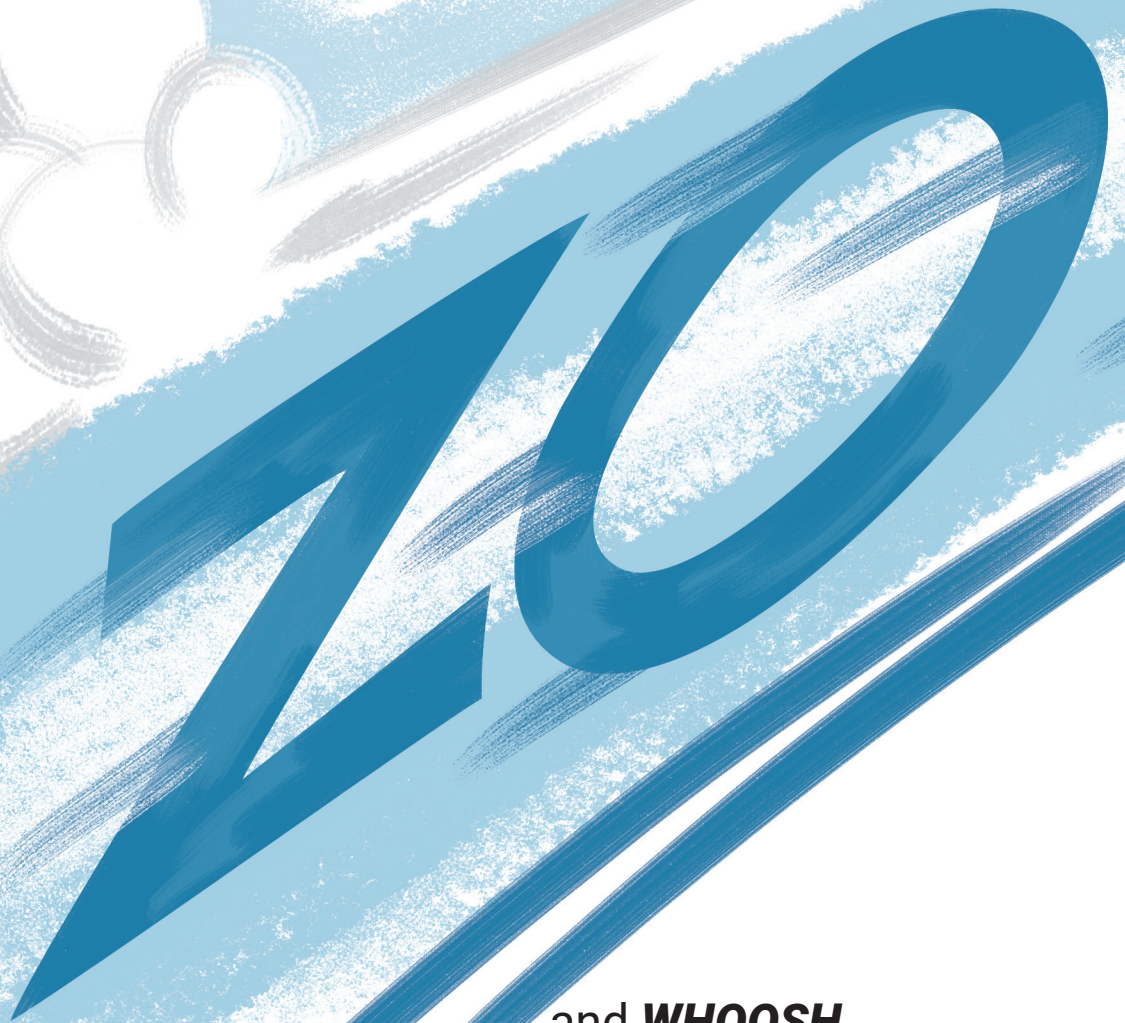
“Thank you for your service,” Dennis and I did say.

“We will honor our veterans, especially on Veterans Day.”

We waved goodbye to our friend and Uncle Sam
in his red, white, and blue.

We got into our jet, and away we flew.

Then we took off and again went



WHOOSH

and **WHOOSH,**
WHOOSH, WHOOSHED
back to Dennis’s room.





“That was my favorite adventure yet!” I barked.

“You say that every time, Otto.”

“Well, I loved seeing our Army, Navy, and Air Force, and thanking our veterans.”

“Don’t forget the **Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force**, and **National Guard**,” said Dennis. “They’re all part of our military, too.”

“Oh yeah!” I barked. “We love all of our armed services and all of our veterans.”

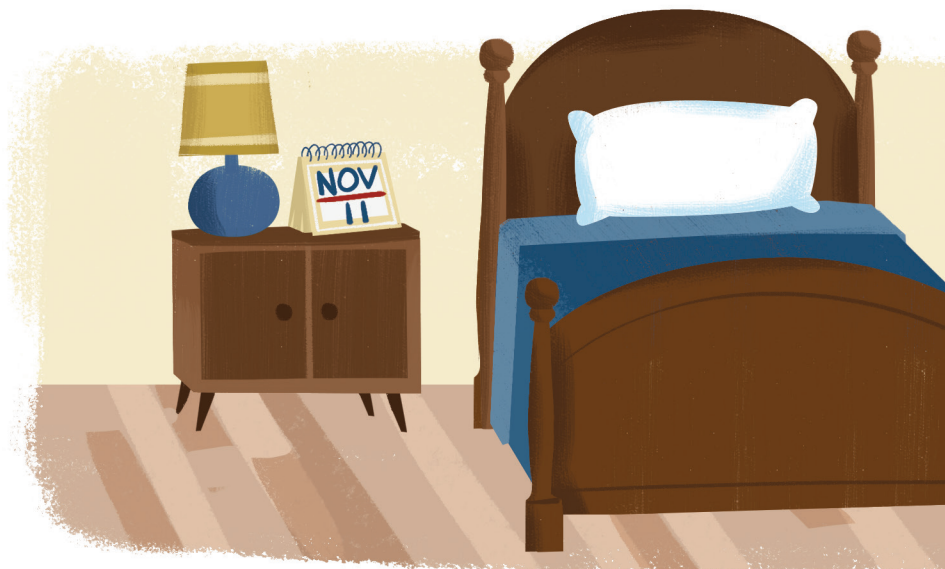




“Yes,” said Dennis. “Our armed forces protect our country and help keep us free.”

“They sacrifice so much for America,” I said.

“That’s why we honor and thank them for their service,” said Dennis.



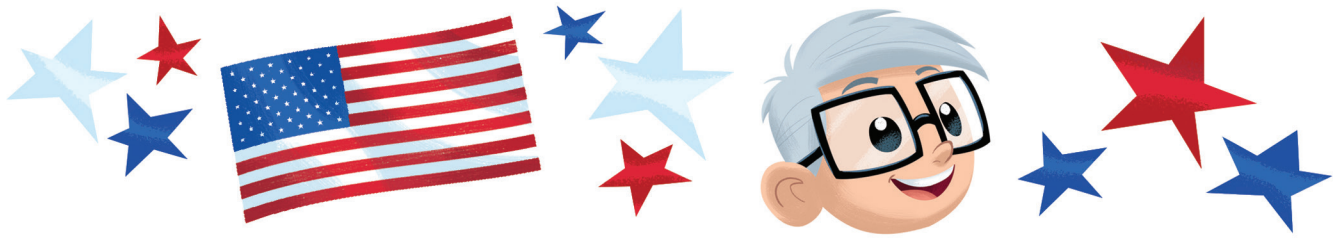


“I will always honor our veterans, especially on Veterans Day!” I barked.

“Me too! Happy Veterans Day!” shouted Dennis.

“Happy Veterans Day! Ruff Ruff!”





We Love Our History

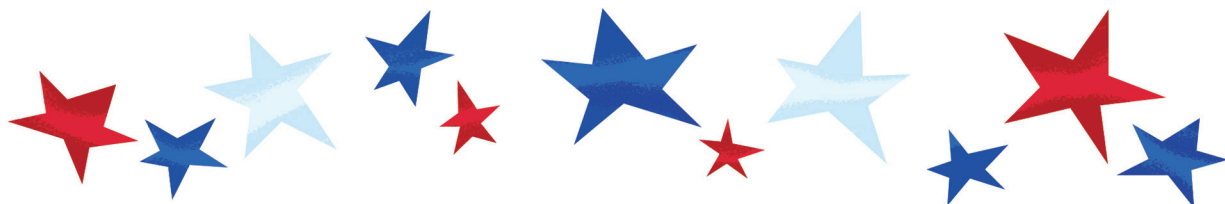
Uncle Sam: A fictional character who is often used to symbolize the United States—his initials are U.S.—and to promote patriotism, especially during times of war. Some believe he is based on Sam Wilson, a man from New York who delivered meat to soldiers during the War of 1812. Americans remember Uncle Sam best as the bearded man dressed in a red, white, and blue suit appearing on recruitment posters and encouraging young people to serve in the military with the slogan, “I WANT YOU for U.S. ARMY.”

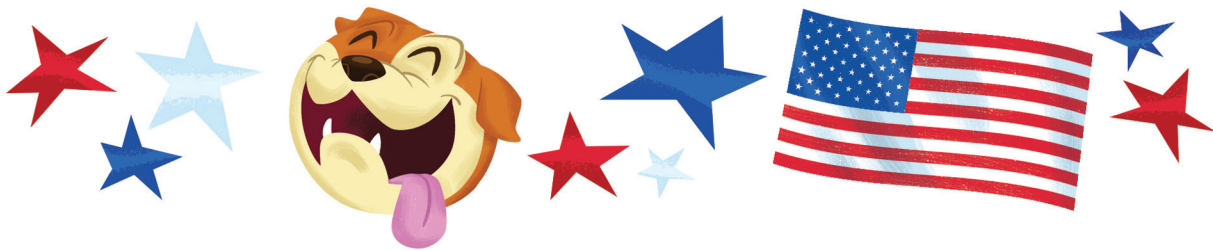
Constitution: The document written by the Founding Fathers that lays out the structure, powers, and limits of the United States federal government. The Constitution created three branches of government (executive, legislative, and judicial) and a system of checks and balances so that no single branch becomes too powerful. Every American soldier promises to support and defend the U.S. Constitution against all enemies. It has been carefully preserved and can be seen in the National Archives in our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C.

Army: The military service that performs operations on land. The U.S. Army, formed on June 14, 1775, is the oldest military service in the United States and often uses tanks, jeeps, and helicopters to carry out its missions.

Navy: The military service that performs operations on or under water. The U.S. Navy, formed on October 13, 1775, often uses battleships, aircraft carriers, and submarines to carry out its missions.

Air Force: The military service that performs operations in the air. The U.S. Air Force, formed in 1907 under the U.S. Army and made a separate service in 1947, often uses fighter jets, spy planes, and bombers to carry out its missions.





National Mall: A broad, open promenade in Washington, D.C. between the U.S. Capitol in the east, and the Lincoln Memorial in the west. Many of our nation's monuments and national museums are located on the National Mall.

Washington Monument: The monument to our first president, George Washington, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It is in the shape of a giant obelisk—a tall column with a small pyramid on the top. The Washington Monument is just over 555 feet tall (the tallest building in our nation's capital) and was completed in 1884.

Marines: The military service that performs special missions, often during emergency situations. The Marines are similar to the Army and Navy because they operate on both land and water, but can react and deploy quickly. The U.S. Marine Corps was founded on November 10, 1775.

Coast Guard: The military service that operates near America's shorelines. The U.S. Coast Guard was founded in 1790 and performs various missions, such as law enforcement and rescuing people lost at sea.

Space Force: The military service that protects America from what its enemies might do in space, such as harming the satellites we need to talk on the phone, use the internet, or guide our missiles, airplanes, tanks, ships, and aircraft carriers. The U.S. Space Force was formed in 2019 and is the newest military service in the United States.

National Guard: American citizens who usually work in civilian jobs can join the National Guard, which has units in every state and Washington, D.C. They train for the military part-time outside of their regular jobs and can become full-time servicemembers in times of war or other emergencies.



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**See you in
our *next* adventure!**

- Dennis and Otto

ABOUT

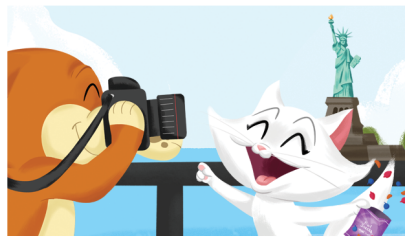
Otto's Tales

Come along on a storybook adventure with our beloved **OTTO'S TALES** books and animated shows, which instill wholesome values, patriotism, and the American spirit in each episode. Journey along at home or school, and celebrate the American people, places, and events that make our country special!

**Discover all the shows & books from
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TODAY IS
Celebrating American
holidays & traditions



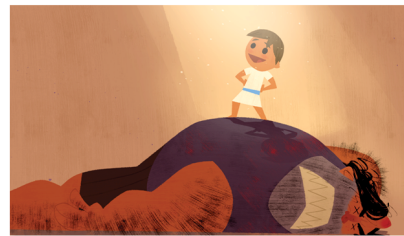
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