United States™ Census Bureau

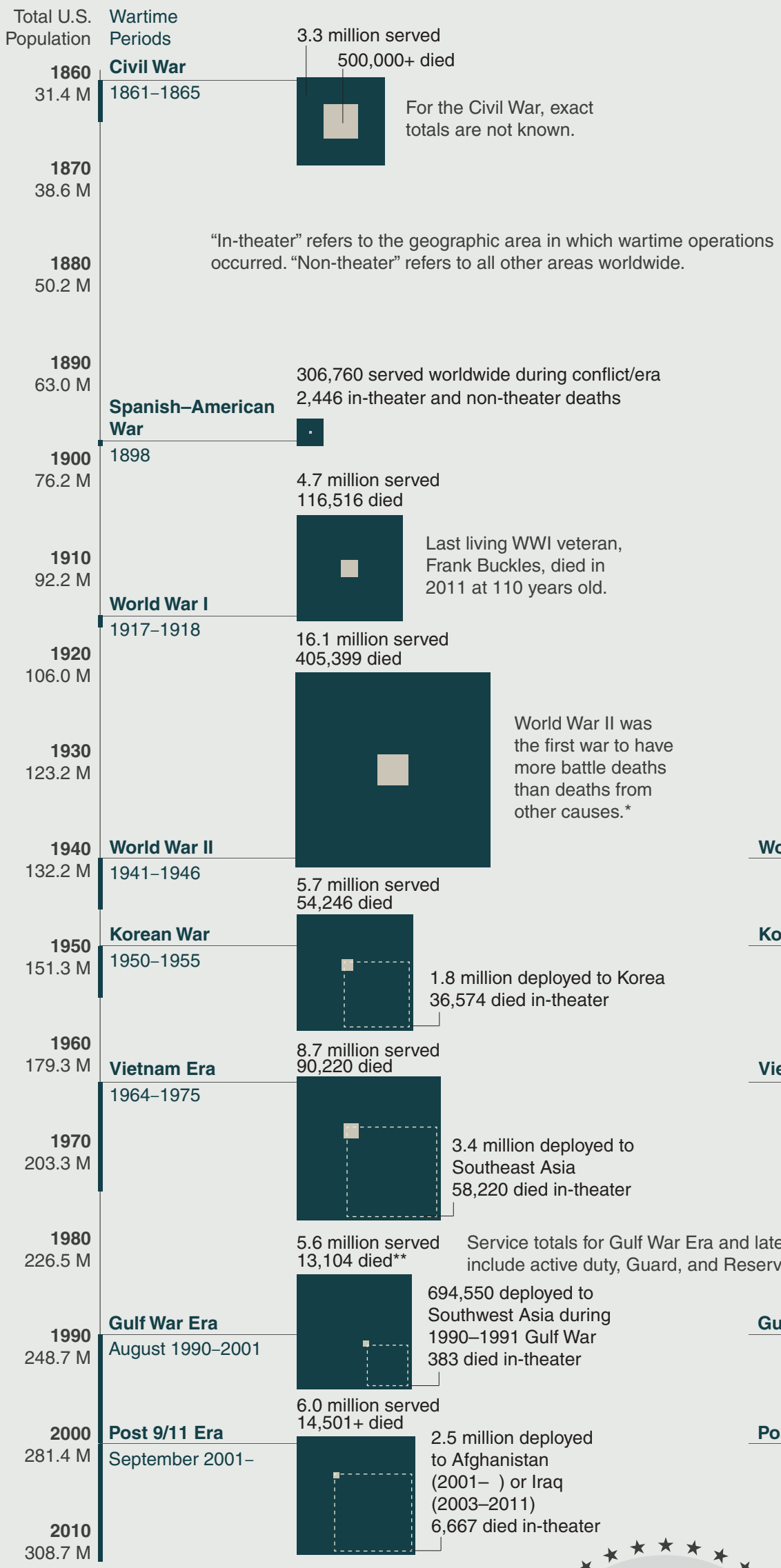
HOW DO WE KNOW?

MEMORIAL DAY

Honoring America's Wartime Veterans

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for 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 U.S. Census Bureau gathers detailed information on living veterans from the American Community Survey (ACS). Federal, state, and community leaders, private businesses, nonprofits, and community organizations use ACS statistics to determine the programs, services, and infrastructure that 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.



Total worldwide deaths include only active duty and are current through 2010. Total in-theater deaths as of April 25, 2013.

Wartime Periods Notes:

* Deaths include battle deaths (for "in-theater" only), accidents, illness, injury, or other causes.

** Death totals include only active duty between 1990 and 2001.

Wartime periods show official dates of U.S. involvement.

Population totals include the territories of Alaska and Hawaii from 1890 to 1950.

Congressional Medal of Honor

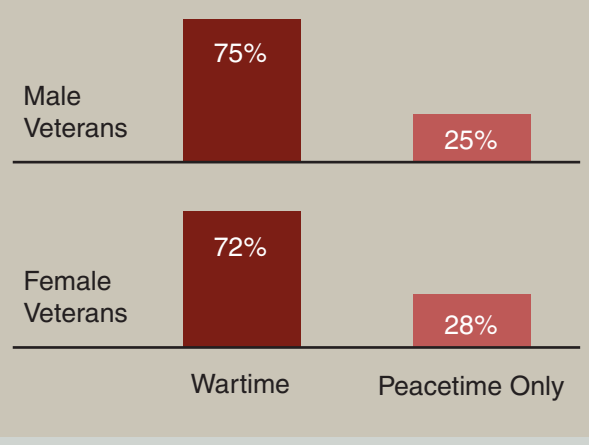
3,460 men and 1 woman have received the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force

Wartime Veterans in 2011

Source: 2011 American Community Survey

16.1 MILLION

of the 21.6 million living veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces served worldwide on active duty during a period of war



	Number of Wartime Veterans	Percent Female	Median Age	Percent With a Service-Connected Disability***
World War II	1.8 million	4.4%	87 years	13.6%
Korean War	2.5 million	2.3%	80 years	12.2%
Vietnam Era	7.5 million	2.9%	64 years	20.2%
Gulf War Era	3.5 million	14.7%	43 years	27.2%
Post 9/11 Era	2.5 million	17.3%	32 years	26.7%

2011 ACS 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.

*** "Service-connected" means the disability was a result of disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service.

The percentages of Gulf War and Post-9/11 veterans with a service-connected disability are not statistically different.

United States™ Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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STATISTICS2013.ORG INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF STATISTICS PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Defense, Defense Manpower Data Center and Defense Casualty Analysis System; Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Public Affairs.

For more information, visit www.census.gov/how/infographics/sources.html.