WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) released the following statement in recognition of Veterans Day:

"Veterans Day is a day to honor all Americans who have answered the nation's highest call of duty. Every day we benefit from the freedoms we share as Americans, we are reminded of their service, sacrifice and success in protecting each of us and the values we hold so dear.

"We owe this freedom to generations of brave men and women who have put on a U.S. military uniform to protect our citizens and defend our land and ideals. Our veterans and those currently serving have risked no less than their own lives to preserve ours, and they deserve the highest expression of honor and gratitude - on this day and every day.

"This Veterans Day, our reflection also falls on the 13 who were killed and the dozens more who were injured in the unconscionable act of violence that occurred last week at Fort Hood, Texas. These patriotic Americans and their families are with us in our hearts and thoughts as we honor today all those who have sacrificed under the banner of freedom."

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