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Contact: Evangeline Conley, Public Affairs Officer

Phone: (716) 862-8753

Cell: (716) 512-9338

Email: [Evangeline.Conley@va.gov](mailto:Evangeline.Conley@va.gov)

**VA Western New York Healthcare System celebrates National Veterans and Military Families Month 2018 with events honoring Veterans and their families**

**BUFFALO, NEW YORK** — Yesterday evening, President Donald Trump [declared November 2018 the second annual National Veterans and Military Families Month](https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-national-veterans-military-families-month-2018/) to “salute the brave and dedicated patriots who have worn the uniform of the United States, and…celebrate the extraordinary military families whose selfless service and sacrifice make our military the finest in the world.”

Beginning in 2017, [President Trump proclaimed November Veterans and Military Families Month](https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/42710/president-proclaims-november-veterans-military-families-month/), marking the first time America celebrated Veterans and military families for the entire month and not just on Veterans Day, in keeping with the President’s strong focus on improving care and benefits to our nation’s heroes.

That tradition continues again this year with more than 300 events at VA hospitals, benefits offices and cemeteries across the country, including:

* senior leader visits to VA facilities
* open houses
* town halls
* benefits claims clinics
* volunteer recognitions
* homeless Veteran initiative events
* suicide prevention events
* faith-based community events
* flag planting tributes at national cemeteries

To celebrate Veterans and Military Families Month locally, VA Western New York Healthcare System will hold the following events honoring Veterans and their families throughout the month of November:

**Wednesday, November 7,** Business Advantage to Hiring Veterans, Buffalo site, 3495 Bailey Avenue, Room 309A, in partnership with Small Business Administration.

**Thursday, November 8,** Veterans Canteen Service Batavia, Veterans Day cake celebration, 222 Richmond Avenue, in Food Court at 1pm.

**Friday, November 9**, VA Western New York Healthcare System managers will greet Veterans as they enter the Buffalo and Batavia sites with small flags. The festivities continue with the traditional Veterans Day ceremony 1pm at Buffalo site, 3495 Bailey Avenue, Freedom Hall, room 301 with keynote speaker, Mike Schraft, Upstate Regional Director NY Helmets to Hardhats, Inc. Perspecta employees participate with their

***Home of the Brave Campaign.*** See [www.homeofthebravecampaign.com](http://www.homeofthebravecampaign.com) for more details.

**Saturday, November 10**, VA employees, volunteers, families and Veterans participate in Veterans Day Parade in South Buffalo at 11am.

**Sunday, November 11**, VA WNYHS will feature a brief Veterans Day observance at Batavia VA Medical Center, 222 Richmond Avenue, at the flag pole near Building 3 at 10am. Perspecta employees support the event with their ***Home of the Brave Campaign.*** See [www.homeofthebravecampaign.com](http://www.homeofthebravecampaign.com) for more details. A coffee social sponsored by local Walmart employees will take place following the ceremony in the Auditorium, Building 4.

**Wednesday, November 14,** Veteran Homelessness Press Conference – in partnership with Homeless Alliance of WNY at VA Health Care for Homeless (VAHCHV) Program, 1325 Main Street, Buffalo at 10am followed by turkey delivery to Veterans supported by VAHCHV in partnership with Resurrection Life Food Pantry.

**Sunday, November 18**, Thanksgiving Dinner for needy Veterans at the Buffalo site, 3495 Bailey Avenue, Veterans Canteen Food Court from 11am-1pm.

This year’s celebration of Veterans and Military Families Month caps an [unprecedented period of improvement for VA](https://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/veterans/), as the department has made groundbreaking progress over the last two years in the areas of accountability, transparency and efficiency across the department while enjoying an important series of legislative successes.

“At VA, Veterans and their families are at the center of everything we do. Veterans and Military Families Month is an opportunity for us to honor the service of these patriots while educating communities about VA benefits and services and our commitment to customer service improvement,” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said.

“It's our privilege to honor Veterans every day at VA Western New York Healthcare System,” said Michael Swartz, Executive Director. “Veterans and Military Families Month is another great opportunity to highlight VA health care and our Western New York partnerships which are an integral part of serving Veterans.”

The full list of national events for Veterans and Military Families month is available [at this link](https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/veteransmonthcalendar.asp).

For more information, please call 716-862-8753.

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