



801 E. Front Street, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Lori Wells, Manager

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Subject: Hometown Heroes Veterans Appreciation

Traverse City – As American soldiers put on their uniforms, they are aware of the ultimate sacrifice they might be asked to give. They face the horrors of war to secure the freedom we cherish. Their bravery shields the rest of us from the ugliness, but they live ever after with the violent memories of war, often paying a steep price for their participation. Therefore, we must never forget as a nation what we owe our soldiers.

In appreciation for the sacrifices those in the military have made to keep our country free, The Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network and Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services have joined together to honor our local hometown heroes on Wednesday, October 11. The event will kick off at 9:30 a.m. at the US Coast Guard Air Station, Traverse City, 1175 Airport Access Road, where buses will depart for a guided bus tour of the monuments and memorials in our area that have been built to remember those who have served our country in the armed forces. U.S. Coast Guard Commanding Officer, Nathan E. Coulter, will accompany the bus tour.

The event also includes a ceremony at 11:15 a.m. at Veterans Memorial City Park, located in the Grand Traverse Commons. Family, friends, and the public are invited to attend the ceremony to participate in the Presentation of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of our National Anthem. Prior to the ceremony, members of VFW Cherryland Post 2780 will greet our hometown heroes and hand out small United States flags to commemorate the event. If you plan to attend the ceremony, please arrive at least ten minutes early to greet and meet with the veterans.

Following the tour and ceremony at Veterans Memorial City Park, the event closes with a lunch for the veterans and a special program at the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, where Cmdr. Coulter will address the participants.

The other hometown heroes event partners include: U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, BATA, TCAPS, *The Senior Center Network, part of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department, offers diverse programs to older adults in Grand Traverse County. Thousands each year enjoy dozens of activities on a daily basis at locations in Traverse City, Acme, Fife Lake, Interlochen, and Kingsley. Business hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 231-922-4911, or visit www.grandtraverse.org/scn or our Facebook page.*



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Traverse City Police, Traverse City Fire Department, Honor Guard and Auxiliary from the VFW Cherryland Post 2780, Honor Guard from the American Legion Post 35, Kiwanis Flag Group, Oakwood Cemetery, Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens, Grand Traverse Veterans Coalition, Grand Traverse County Veterans Affairs, Ron Smith from Veteran to Veteran Mentoring, Prolmage Design, Photographer John Russell, Videographer Tom Slater, American Legion Riders, Patriot Guard, WTCM's Ron Jolly, Jenna Elsenheimer, John Block, Mike Nichols, Dan Nichols, Larry Ludka, Tom Freiwald.

The hometown heroes' event is free for veterans and one guest, but advance registration is required by Wednesday, October 4 on a first-come, first served basis. Veterans of all ages are welcome and buses are wheelchair and walker accessible.

For more information and to reserve a ticket, email dmikowski@grandtraverse.org or call 231-922-4911.

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