

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2022-098

Recognizing the Observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 2022, in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. In 1954, Congress formally created Veterans Day to pay tribute to all American Veterans and current service members, renaming Armistice Day which had been celebrated as a legal federal holiday since 1938.
- B. Veterans Day is a time for Americans to honor every service member who has ever worn one of our Nation's uniforms. Throughout our history, U.S. citizens and non-citizens have answered the call to duty and served our country with honor, dignity, and an instinct to serve.
- C. Many people throughout our country's history have served as members of the Armed Forces, Active, Reserve and National Guard, including women, people of color, immigrants, people who identify with all sexual orientations and gender identities, people with disabilities, and other brave individuals. The diversity of veterans is a tremendous strength that makes our Armed Forces more resilient. Often these individuals were discriminated against by the government that they served; they served for the vision of equality even though that vision was not actualized in their own lives.
- D. There are approximately 19.5 million veterans in the United States and 5.06 million veterans on disability compensation. Approximately 11% of veterans experience homelessness and 50% of veterans experiencing homelessness also live with a mental illness like PTSD. We know that Multnomah County is a microcosm of our broader veteran community and their struggles.
- E. Multnomah County is home to an estimated 40,224+ veterans. Multnomah County is committed to providing the support and care that all veterans have earned, including improved access to employment, benefits, housing, and health care.
- F. In Multnomah County we continue to work toward greater inclusivity and equity in how we support people who have served our country. We seek to better understand the needs of these individuals and communities, to provide care for veterans at the full intersectionality of their lives and identities, and to meet their needs as they transition back to civilian life.
- G. Multnomah County provides services to veterans who live in communities throughout the County. The County Veterans Services Officers, in the Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division of Department of County Human Services, work directly with veterans and military connected families in an effort to ensure that they receive all State and Federal benefits to which they are entitled. Veterans can also access services and support from many other Multnomah County departments from the Health Department to the Joint Office of Homeless Services, to the Department of Community Justice.

- H. For the first time, Multnomah County has joined the National Association of Counties in participating in “Operation Green Light for Veterans” – an awareness campaign which hopes to shine a light on the needs of veterans and services provided by the county. Multnomah County will illuminate the Morrison Bridge green from November 7-10 as well as the front entrance of the office that houses Veterans Services to signal to veterans that the County supports them and to inspire veterans to reach out to their County veteran service officers.
- I. Multnomah County is also committed to veterans represented in our workforce. The Multnomah County Veteran Employee Resource Group provides support and identifies resources for County employees who are veterans or are members of military connected families.
- J. The Multnomah County Veterans Task Force (VTF) was convened in 2010 by Commissioner Diane McKeel to evaluate and strengthen the services provided to military service members and veterans in Multnomah County. The VTF is still active today and continues to provide a collaborative forum for education, advocacy, and community among service providers and service users.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

In observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 2022, on this day all veterans and current members of the Armed Forces, Active, Reserve and National Guard will be remembered and honored in Multnomah County, Oregon and with this proclamation affirms the County’s commitment to supporting veterans in our community.

ADOPTED this 10th day of November, 2022.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By *Jenny M. Madkour*
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: The Office of Commissioner Sharon Meieran, District 1.