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News Release

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Puerto Rico Veterans Advocate, Office of Veterans Affairs for the United States Virgin Islands, VA Caribbean Healthcare System, VA San Juan Regional Office and, the Puerto National Cemetery celebrates National Veterans and Military Families Month 2018 with events honoring Veterans and their families

San Juan — Yesterday evening, President Donald Trump declared November 2018 the second annual National Veterans and Military Families Month 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, 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 the Puerto Rico Veterans Advocate, Office of Veterans Affairs for the United States Virgin Islands, VA Caribbean Healthcare System, San Juan Regional Office, and the Puerto National Cemetery will hold the following events honoring Veterans and their families throughout the month of November:

- Day of Prayer and Reflection for Veterans on November 1, 2018 at the San Juan VA Medical Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico
- Veterans’ Day Public Contact Team Open House on November 2, 2018 in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico

- 2nd Induction at the Veterans Hall of Fame on November 2, 2018 at American University in Bayamón, Puerto Rico
- Veterans Benefits Outreach and Claims Clinic on November 8, 2018 at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico
- VA Veteran Day celebrations will be held at:
 1. **Arecibo Temporary Community Outpatient Clinic** on November 7, 2018 in Arecibo, Puerto Rico
 2. **Ceiba Community Outpatient Clinic** on November 7, 2018 in Ceiba, Puerto Rico
 3. **Comerio Rural Clinic on November 7, 2018** in Comerio, Puerto Rico
 4. **Guayama Community Outpatient Clinic** on November 8, 2018 in Guayama, Puerto Rico
 5. **Utua Rural Clinic** on November 8, 2018 in Utua, Puerto Rico
 6. **Vieques Rural Clinic** on November 8, 2018 in Vieques, Puerto Rico
 7. **Mayagüez Outpatient Clinic** on November 9, 2018 in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico
 8. **Ponce Outpatient Clinic** on November 9, 2018 in Ponce, Puerto Rico
 9. **San Juan VA Medical Center** on November 9, 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico
 10. **St. Croix Community Outpatient Clinic** on November 9, 2018 in St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands
 11. **St. Thomas Community Outpatient Clinic** on November 9, 2018 in St. Thomas U. S. Virgin Islands
- Veterans Day on November 9, 2018 in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico
- National Veterans Day Women Month Parades on November 10, 2018 in St. Johns, U.S. Virgin Islands and November 11, 2018 at St. Thomas, and St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands
- Veterans Day (Puerto Rico Official Celebration) on November 11, 2018 at Boardwalk in Cataño, Puerto Rico
- Veterans Day on November 11, 2018 at San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico
- Hiring Our Heroes November on 14, 2018 at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico
- Veterans Day on November 14, 2018 in Canovanas, Puerto Rico
- Veterans' Month Closing Activities at Casa Del Veterano on November 30, 2018 in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico

This year's celebration of Veterans and Military Families Month caps an unprecedented period of improvement for VA, 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.

“Today we remember them all and “Honor All Who Served”. It is our duty to remember the sacrifices of all Veterans, and to make certain that our commitments to them and to their families are honored,” said Dr. Antonio Sanchez the Acting Director for the VA Caribbean Healthcare System.

“We serve Veterans fulfilling our mission with integrity, commitment, accountability, respect and excellence,” said Bernard Johnson, Executive Director at the San Juan Regional Office.

“Today and every day show a Veteran your respect and gratitude for their selfless service and dedication to our Nation; at our National Cemeteries we honor them by providing a warm customer service already earned,” said Juan Nieves, Director of Puerto Rico National Cemetery.

The full list of national events for Veterans and Military Families month is available at <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/veteransmonthcalendar.asp>.

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