

DUTCHESS COUNTY TO CELEBRATE 7TH ANNUAL VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY EVENT

Molinaro: "We come together as a community to say THANK YOU to our local veterans, past and present."

Poughkeepsie... Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro and Division of Veterans Services Director Nelson Eddy Rivera, USN (Ret) have announced the **7th Annual Dutchess County Veterans Appreciation Day** will be held on **Saturday, November 3rd, 2012 at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the Roosevelt Library and Home in Hyde Park**. The event will take place from 10am until 1pm. The highlight of the event will be a *Medal Presentation Ceremony* beginning at 12 noon.

"Join us as we honor the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces, both past and present, who have served our nation and earned our gratitude," said County Executive Molinaro. "This event celebrates the service and sacrifice of our local veterans and connects them with resources that are available to them and their families, many of which they may not even be aware of."

The *Veterans Appreciation Day* celebrates all those who have honorably served our country. There will be representatives from County, State & Federal government as well as non-profit agencies. The event will feature presentations throughout the morning including:

- Rebuilding Together Dutchess County presentation at 11am
- Legal Services of Hudson Valley presentation at 11:15am
- Dutchess County Division of Aging Services presentation at 11:30am

At noon, County Executive Molinaro and Veterans Services Director Nelson Eddy Rivera will present medals to one local veteran who served in World War II and two veterans who served in the Vietnam War. The *Medal Presentation Ceremony* is considered to be the highlight of the

Veteran's Appreciation Day event. A total of 25 medals and certificates will be presented including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

Staff from VA Hudson Valley HealthCare (Castle Point) will be on hand to register veterans for their Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Benefits and take photos for the Veterans Information Card (VIC).

Dutchess County Clerk Kendall will also be on hand to issue the "**RETURN THE FAVOR (Find and Assist Veteran of Record)**" Discount Program Card. The FAVOR card entitles veterans to discounts at more than 130 retailers and service businesses throughout Dutchess County. To get their FAVOR card, veterans should bring a copy of their Honorably Discharged Full-Time Active Duty Separation Papers (DD214, WD-AGO, Navpers 553, etc.) and a picture ID showing Dutchess County as their county of residence.

Event attendees can also take advantage of complimentary admission to the FDR Presidential Library and Museum as well as a complimentary viewing of the "*A Rendezvous with History*" film.

Division of Veterans Services Director Nelson Eddy Rivera, USN (Ret) said, "This is always such a special event each year, serving as a kickoff to the Veteran's Day events that take place throughout the county. It is truly a celebration of our local veterans in recognition of all they have done for our country." This year, Veteran's Day holiday is observed on Monday, November 12th.

The *Dutchess County Veterans Appreciation Day* is open to all veterans and their families as well as the general public. For further information, please contact the Dutchess County Division of Veterans Services at [845-486-2060](tel:845-486-2060) or visit www.dutchessny.gov.

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