

# Dutchess County's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans' Appreciation Day is Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Poughkeepsie...** Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro and Division of Veterans Services Director Nelson Eddy Rivera, USN (Ret) invite residents to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dutchess County *Veterans Appreciation Day* on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential 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.

"Our *Veterans Appreciation Day* event is a chance to gather together as a community to say **THANK YOU** to 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."

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

The Medal Presentation Ceremony, always the highlight of the event, will begin at noon. US Congressman Chris Gibson, retired Army Col., will offer remarks and medals will then be presented to veterans of World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War & Persian Gulf War.

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 Brad 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. Additionally, there will be a non-perishable food item collection for the Castle Point Food Pantry.

Division of Veterans' Services Director Nelson Eddy Rivera, USN (Ret) said, "We are so grateful of each and every man and woman who has served and is currently serving in our military. Our Veterans Appreciation Day event is just one more way we celebrate their service and offer our services to them. There is a wealth of services available to our veterans and their families and we want to make it as easy as possible for them to access them."

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 or visit [www.dutchessny.gov](http://www.dutchessny.gov).

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