

# Upcoming October 2018 Events and Other Items of Possible Interest to Northwest Arkansas Veterans Coalition Members

(More information about many of these activities can be found on the Coalition Facebook page or on the Facebook pages of participating organizations)

Breakfast This Saturday: Breakfast is served at American Legion Post 139 in Springdale and Post 100 in Rogers the first Saturday of each month.

Bean Day and Country and Western Bands at American Legion Post 27: Each Wednesday, American Legion Post 27 in Fayetteville holds a fund-raising bean lunch for \$5. On the first Wednesday of the month the patients at the Fayetteville Veterans Home are invited to eat for free. The Post is also having County and Western dances with live bands Wednesday night from 6 to 9 p.m. The monthly breakfast is the third Saturday of the month.

Heroes on the Water: Saturday, Oct 13, 2018, beginning at 8 a.m., Heroes on the Water – Northwest Arkansas Chapter will be at Lake Fayetteville to paddle, fish, and heal.

VHSO Annual Commander's Brief: The Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks Annual Commander's Brief for commanders of Veterans Service Organizations will be held, Oct. 18, 2018, at 11 a.m. in the Auditorium, Building 3. As required by the Veterans Administration, the Chief of Voluntary Services will brief attendees on VAVSO Information. Also, a reminder that all Veterans Services Organization commanders are required to schedule an Annual Joint Review (AJR) with the Chief of Voluntary Services. This is required by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and most VSOs has a policy to conduct the AJR.

Camp Alliance Boots & Bowties 2: Friday, Oct. 19, 2018, from 6:00 to 10:30 p.m. is Camp Alliance's Boots & Bowties 2 in Little Rock. This charity cocktail event benefits the Camp Alliance mission supporting local service members and their families. The event includes grand casino play, interactive games, prizes, entertainment food & beverages. For more information and a list of the various ticket options please visit Camp Alliance's website at [campallianceinc.org/event/bbtlr/](http://campallianceinc.org/event/bbtlr/).

Post 77 Concert: Friday, Oct.19, 2018, American Legion Post 77 is sponsoring the Veteran's Memories Then and Now concert at the Metroplex Event Center in Rogers, Ark., to raise funds for local veterans groups. The concert, which begins at 6:30 p.m., features local band, Classic Country, and a special performance by Tre Twitty and Tayla Lynn as a Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn tribute band. Tickets for veterans and one guest at \$5 each and tickets for nonveterans at \$20 each. They are looking for other veterans/veterans organizations that would be willing to sell tickets for the event.

Money raised from the concert will go to local veterans groups. There will be food stands staffed by members of Sheep Dog and the Marine Corps League. It is possible that a guitar signed by Loretta Lynn will be auctioned off.

For more information interested persons can go to the event's Facebook page, Veterans-Memories-Then-and-Now or its webpage - <https://www.veteransmemoriesthenandnow.com>.

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Thunder Over the Rock Air Show and STEM Fest: The Thunder Over the Rock Air Show and STEM Fest will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 27 and 28, 2018, at Little Rock Air Force Base. The US Air Force Thunderbirds demonstration team, US Army Golden Knights and the C-103J Demo Team will make appearances.

VA Town Hall: Monday, Oct. 29, 2018, at 11 a.m. the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks will hold a fourth town hall meeting to provide an update into an investigation of an impaired pathologist who is linked to at least seven missed diagnoses and a potential death. The meeting will be held in the Auditorium in Bldg 3.

Decatur Veterans Day Parade: Saturday, November 3, 2018, the City of Decatur will hold a parade starting at 3 p.m. The lineup will begin at 2:30 p.m. at 3rd and Main and go to Veterans Park. At the park there will be a welcome ceremony and music to honor the veterans. Free food and drinks will be available. Attendees are asked to bring their own chairs. Everyone is welcome to participate in the parade and the activities at the park. For more information contact Rob Hopkins at 479 752 7203.

5-K Run in Tulsa: Saturday, November 3, 2018, the DAV is sponsoring a 5-K run in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as part of a nationwide fund raising event.

Marine Corps Birthday Ball: Saturday, November 3, 2018, the Marine Corps League will be holding the Marine Corps Ball at the Embassy Suites in Rogers from 6 to 11 p.m. Live music will be provided by Restless Natives. Visit the NWA Marines Facebook page for more information.

Lowell Veterans Ceremony: Tuesday, November 6, 2018, there will a Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park.

Veterans Day Program at VA: Friday, November 9, 2018, the VA will hold its Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. in the Auditorium in Bldg. 3.

Siloam Springs Veterans Day Parade: Saturday, November 10, 2018, American Legion Post 29 of Siloam Springs will hold a parade.

Huntsville Veterans Day Parade: Saturday, November 10, 2018, the Chamber of Commerce in Huntsville is sponsoring a Veterans Day Parade. A ceremony will take place at 10 a.m., followed by the parade. Following the parade will be a community event at the park near the airport with children's games, a chili cook off and other activities. The event will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is the first time in years that Huntsville has done a Veterans Day program and so it encourages all to attend.

Veterans Day Program at Fayetteville National Cemetery: Sunday, November 11, 2018, a ceremony will be held at 6 a.m. at the Fayetteville National Cemetery. The ceremony will be open to the public and will have bagpipe players and the Singing Men of Arkansas. Coalition

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members are urged to show their support for this program and help get the word out. After the program, Fayetteville American Legion Post 27 will hold a breakfast.

Veterans Day Program: Monday, November 12, 2018, the VFW 1674 will have a Veterans Day program at 11 a.m. Siloam Springs High School.

Benton County Veteran Service Office: Patrick Robinson encourages all veterans in Benton County needing assistance to set up appointments with his office.

Washington County Veteran Service Office: Josh Medina reported that his co-worker's husband has been hospitalized and could use prayer. He added that the office has inherited a large van with a VA wrap. He would like to redo the wrap and get sponsors that support veterans and veterans organizations to fund the redo. In response to Chuck Adkins' question on how to donate, Medina said Adkins or other interested parties should see him.

VBMS Access: Benton, Washington and Carroll counties now have access to the Veterans Benefit Management System. The system allows claims processors and power of attorney designees, nationwide, the ability to instantly review close to 3 billion images related to Veterans claims.

Encouraging Use of Ramp and Reporting Problems with C&P Program: Missie Lambert, with Senator Boozman's office, encouraged the use of the RAMP program for all veteran's claims before the program ends Feb. 1, 2019. Lambert also encourage those having problems with inconvenient times and locations for scheduled Compensation and Pension (C&P) exams to contact their local Veteran Service Officer and if that doesn't help to contact her office. It appears exams are being scheduled without taking into consideration factors such as driving distance to the exam(s), age of the veterans, and/or medical condition of the veterans. Lambert caution increasing claim efficiency rate could result in document errors and decreased accuracy.

Patrick Robinson of the Benton County VSO reported that he has had very good responses in requesting changes for C&P exam issues.

Muzzle Loader Raffle Tickets: Cliff Madewell has raffle tickets for a Percussion Muzzle Loader. Tickets are \$5 a piece or 5 for \$20.

Coalition Hats Available: Treasurer Art Florer stated Coalition hats are available for a \$15 donation.

New VA Cards: Ken Spencer encouraged Coalition members to get the new VA identification cards. According to Josh Medina the VA is now issuing Veteran cards to everyone who was discharged honorably and not just retirees and those eligible for VA Disability benefits. If you are looking for a general "veterans card" but don't qualify for any others you can take a picture of your Drivers License and picture of you on a white background, verify your status due to a series of questions online and send in the request on Vets.gov. Just go there and click on the link at the bottom middle section of the screen and follow the prompts.

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Request for Small Kitchen Appliances: Operation Reboot is in need of small kitchen appliances such as coffee pots, toasters, electric can openers, etc. Please contact Barbara Aguirre at (479) 640-2108.