County Executive's Corner: A Green Light for Veterans, A Lasting Commitment to Service

BY: Ed Day, Rockland County Executive

Our veterans have stood up for our country, and we must make sure they know we stand with them.

Each Veterans Day, Rockland County participates in Operation Green Light to honor those who have served, recognize their sacrifices, and remind them that they are not alone.

Operation Green Light shows support for veterans of all military conflicts while raising awareness of the unique challenges they and their families may face. It also highlights the resources available at the county, state, and federal levels to help those who have served.

Just as our veterans answered the call to serve our country, we have a responsibility to support them when they return home and throughout their lives. Our Rockland County Veterans Service Agency (VSA) is here to help veterans and their families access the benefits and services they have earned.

Last year alone, the VSA helped veterans obtain nearly $1 million in additional federal benefits beyond those they were already receiving. The agency can assist with:

Applying for VA health care
Accessing GI Bill education benefits
Obtaining assistance with VA home loans
Applying for VA compensation
Finding information about Camp Lejeune water contamination

The VSA also operates a food pantry for veterans and their families. So far this year, approximately 300 veterans and their families visited the pantry for assistance.

To learn more about these and other services, I encourage veterans and their families to tune in to the County's Rockland Roundtable podcast. In the upcoming episode, VSA Director Susan Branam discusses the agency's work and the support available to those who have served. The episode will air at 8 a.m. on Veterans Day on YouTube and will also be available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and iHeartRadio.

Our commitment to veterans extends far beyond Veterans Day. My administration remains steadfast in its support of those who have served, and I encourage any veteran or family member seeking assistance to contact the VSA at 845-638-5244.

May God bless our veterans, and may God bless America.