



801 E. Front Street, Traverse City, Michigan 49686

231-922-4911

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*Making longer lives, better lives.*

**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

Traverse City – Join us in celebrating our very own hometown heroes during a special event sponsored by Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network and Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

On October 18, 2016, over 100 area veterans will take a guided bus tour of our community's monuments and memorials that have been built to commemorate those who have served our country. The event also includes a ceremony at 10:20 a.m. at Veterans Memorial City Park, located in the Grand Traverse Commons. Family, friends, and the public are invited and encouraged to attend the ceremony to participate in the Presentation of Colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of our National Anthem. Prior to the ceremony, members of VFW Post 2780 will greet our hometown heroes and hand out small United States flags to commemorate the event. If you plan to attend the ceremony, please arrive at least ten minutes early to greet and meet with the veterans.

According to Kristine Erickson, Director of Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation and Senior Center Network, "This is a unique opportunity for our community's veterans to visit the many monuments in our area that recognize their selfless service."

The event closes with a lunch and special program at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City 1175, where U.S. Coast Guard Commanding Officer Gregory A. Matyas will address the veterans.

"We are privileged to pay tribute to our veterans and recognize all they have done for our country in a memorable and poignant way," said Ericca Hovie, Program Coordinator for the Senior Center Network, "and this program really does that."

Additional event partners are: U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, BATA, Kiwanis Flag Group, UpNorth Media, TCAPS, Traverse City Police, Traverse City Fire Department, American Legion Riders, Oakwood Cemetery, Patriot Guard, Honor Guard and Auxiliary from the VFW Cherryland Post 2780, Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens, Grand Traverse Veterans Coalition, Mike Nichols, Pro Image Design, Monarch Home Health, Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan, Photographer John Russell, Videographer Tom Slater, Stan Otto and the Men's Quartet, John Block, and Tom Freiwald.

The Hometown Heroes event is FREE for veterans and one guest. Tickets are available until October 6, 2016, on a first-come, first-served basis. The tour begins at 8:30 a.m. on October 18, with busses

departing from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, located at 1175 Airport Access Road, Traverse City. It is expected that lunch will served between 12 and 12:30 p.m. at the Air Station, following the ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park. For more information and to reserve a ticket, call the Senior Center Network at 231-922-4911. Veterans of all ages welcomed.

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