

## 2024 VETERANS DAY PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, each November 11th, we pay our respects and offer our thanks to those who served in the United States military to defend our freedoms and our way of life. The time-honored tribute we celebrate as Veterans Day began more than a century ago, but how we show Veterans our respect today is an important as ever.

**WHEREAS**, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, World War I came to an end after four years of fighting. One year later, America dedicated November 11th as Armistice Day to celebrate peace and the Veterans who fought to make the world a safe place. In 1938, Congress established Armistice Day as a holiday to honor those who fought in the "war to end all wars." However, in the wake of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became Veterans Day in 1954 - a holiday to honor Veterans of all wars from the past, present, and future. In 1975, Congress voted to approve Veterans Day as a national holiday, every November 11th.

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, Oregon's Veterans numbered 265,000 or 8 percent of Oregon's total population. Oregon's living Veterans served in World War II (2.3 percent), Korean War (7.0 percent), Vietnam (38.6 percent), Gulf War I (19.1 percent), Iraq & Afghanistan (17.7 percent), and Between Conflicts (23.1 percent). Of those 265,000 Oregon Veterans, 5,000 live in Benton County. They are represented in every facet of our society. They are employees and employers who help to drive our state and local economy.

**WHEREAS**, other Veterans aren't so fortunate, many bear the physical and emotional scars of war and service. The unemployment rate for Oregon's Veterans is 5.3 percent and 7.7 percent or approximately 20,000 Veterans live in poverty. In addition, 27.7 percent or 73,000 Oregon Veterans have a service connected disability. Nearly 1,500 Veterans are facing homelessness. They need assistance.

**WHEREAS**, the Benton County Veterans Service Office (VSO) assists Veterans and Veteran Families in submitting claims for Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits including compensation, pension, survivor's benefits, and VA Healthcare. The VSO is staffed by Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) in partnership with the Benton County Commissioners and accredited by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers. Also, the Veterans Crisis Line is available 24/7 to support veterans and their families by calling 1-800-273-8255, texting 838255, or visiting [veteranscrisisline.net](https://veteranscrisisline.net) for more information.

**WHEREAS**, as we observe this day, let us all recognize the commitment and personal sacrifices that our Veterans have made to defend our way of life. As Americans, Oregonians, Benton County residents, and City of Monroe citizens, we have no higher duty than to ensure that our Veterans are supported, connected, and respected in our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dan Sheets, Mayor of the City of Monroe, together with the Monroe City Council, do hereby proclaim admiration and support for our Veterans on Monday, November 11, 2024 as "**VETERANS DAY**" in the City of Monroe, Oregon and call on all residents to pay our respects to all who have serviced in the United States Military Services, which is their due, and to rededicate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain.



DATED this 28th day of October, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Sheets", is written over a horizontal line.

Dan Sheets, Mayor