

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Recognizing the Observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 2017, in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

A. Veterans Day is a time for Americans to honor every service member who has ever worn one of our Nation's uniforms. Throughout our history, Americans have answered the call to duty and served our country with honor and dignity, including Oregonians deployed for domestic service during times of emergency or conflicts overseas.

B. There are an estimated 44,378 Veterans who live in Multnomah County, and over 400 County employees have served in the Armed Forces. After completion of their service, Multnomah County is committed to providing the respect and support that all Veterans have earned, including improved access to employment, benefits, housing, and health care. We urge Multnomah County residents to join us in this important charge.

C. The military history of African Americans spans from the arrival of the first black slaves during the colonial history of the United States to the present day. There has been no war fought by or within the United States in which African Americans did not participate, including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War, the World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as other conflicts.

The National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) believes that it is their sacred mission to preserve and protect the history and legacy of contributions made by African Americans in defense of the United States of America. NABVETS notes that African Americans have been recognized for their courage, sacrifice and sense of duty in military conflicts since the time this country was founded.

D. NABVETS/Portland Chapter is a nationally certified Veterans Service Organization and a United States Department of Veterans Affairs claims representative. NABVETS has membership and chapters throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, providing personal advocacy on behalf of veterans seeking claims through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. NABVETS' mission includes advocacy for youth and families, community involvement to help create positive lifestyles for veterans, and the empowerment of low-income and minority veterans. NABVETS also works to generate and preserve the historical record.

E. The Multnomah County Veteran Employee Resource Group provides support and identifies resources for County employees who are married or related to a current or former service member.

F. It is the responsibility of everyone in our community to honor and remember those who have served, and Multnomah County citizens have the resources, skills, and compassion to support service members, Veterans of all generations, and their families.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. In observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 2017, that on this day all Veterans and current members of the Armed Forces, Active, Reserve and National Guard be remembered and honored.

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 20__.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:

JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By:

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith and Commissioner Sharon Meieran