

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 2010-054

Proclaiming that Multnomah County cares and calls upon all citizens to make ours a welcoming community for our returning National Guard service members, veterans and their families.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. 2700 service members of the Oregon National Guard will be returning to Oregon and Washington in April and May of 2010.
- b. Approximately 445 of them will be returning to communities and homes in Multnomah County.
- c. The time from leaving combat zones to being back in the community is approximately 10 days, which has proven not to be enough time for the soldier to decompress after a combat tour.
- d. Multiple deployments are causing excessive stress on many of the veterans and their families, increasing the risk for family conflict, violence, sexual assault, substance abuse, suicide and many other negative consequences for veterans and their communities.
- e. Upon their return, these veterans may find themselves embroiled in marital crises, employment crises, mortgage crises or homelessness, dealing with anxiety and depression disorders including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and/or Military Sexual Trauma.
- f. Oregon National Guard service members do not have an active duty military home base to provide an environment that will support and nurture reintegration into the community.
- g. A lack of awareness regarding the need for assistance, a reluctance to ask for help, and a lack of timely, appropriate, and effective resources will put an increased demand upon community public safety and emergency services.
- h. There are limited resources available and more resources need to be developed.
- i. The Mental Health Advisory Committee has initiated a community education campaign to assist in supporting reintegration of our citizen soldiers.
- j. The fundamental elements of military culture include service to country, protecting others, courage, loyalty and comradeship – qualities that need to be reciprocated to our returning service members by the communities in which they live.
- k. Eighty percent of veterans who come home do successfully achieve reintegration.

1. Multnomah County citizens have the resources, skills and compassion to create and enhance communities that are welcoming and supportive of our returning service members.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

That Multnomah County respects the sacrifices made by our returning service members, veterans and their families; recognizes the courage required to ask for help when it is needed; honors them as participating county citizens; and calls upon all citizens to make ours a welcoming community by educating ourselves about the needs of our service member and veteran families, learning how to provide appropriate support and seeking opportunities to demonstrate that Multnomah County cares about our mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters who are active-duty and returning service members, veterans, and their families.

ADOPTED this 6th day of May, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jeff Cogen, County Chair

Deborah Kafoury,
Commissioner District 1

Barbara Willer,
Commissioner District 2

Judy Shiprack,
Commissioner District 3

Diane McKeel,
Commissioner District 4

SUBMITTED BY:

Diane McKeel, Commissioner District 4