



**TOWN OF ACTON**  
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**Veterans' Services**  
**James R. MacRae, District Director**

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May 10, 2023

Greetings Acton and Boxborough Veterans and family members,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service and let you know more about the services available through my department. My job is to inform Veterans and family members about State and Federal benefits, as well as assist those who may be eligible in obtaining those benefits. I am a town employee mandated by State law, a State law that ensures every town and city in the Commonwealth has a Veterans' Service Officer to assist Veterans and surviving spouses with Veteran's benefits. Additionally, I've begun to hold office hours in Boxborough at the UCC Church, located across from Town Hall at 723 Massachusetts Avenue, on Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this mailing please contact my office to discuss further. There are no costs associated with my services and confidentiality is completely respected.

Regards,

James R. MacRae, District Director  
Acton and Boxborough Veterans' Services





## Town of Acton Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies

Monday, May 29th

The Town of Acton's Department of Veterans' Services, as well as the Celebrations Committee, invite you to join us in our Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. The parade will step off from the AB high school at 10 am by way of Hayward Road. The parade will then continue down Main Street, right onto Concord Road and arrive at Woodlawn Cemetery, at which point the main ceremony will be held. At this point it is unknown if we will stop at the Town common for an abbreviated ceremony due to ongoing construction. Please join us in honoring our nation's heroes. There will be no rain date for this ceremony. For any youth groups wishing to participate in the parade please contact Gail Sawyer at 978-621-2308. For any general inquires please contact James MacRae, Acton Veterans' Service Officer, at 978-929-6614 or at [jmacrae@actonma.gov](mailto:jmacrae@actonma.gov)

## Boxborough's Annual Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

This event is one of the town's most treasured events as it appropriately reflects the sentiment and importance of the holiday in a traditional New England way. The Memorial Day Parade will begin at the corner of Hill Road and Wetherbee Lane. **All town Veterans** are invited to join the parade as Grand Marshals by either marching or riding in a car available for veterans. The parade kicks off at 8:30 AM, so please be ready to line up by 8:15.

For more information on how to get involved, either by marching or watching the parade, please contact Michelle Norris at [michelleriviello@gmail.com](mailto:michelleriviello@gmail.com)

## Boxborough's 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Fifer's Day

Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ Flerra Meadows on Stow Road

Fifer's Day is jointly sponsored by the Boxborough District Minuteman Company and the Town of Boxborough's Public Celebrations and Ceremonies Committee. The Day commences at 9:30 a.m. with the Fifer's Four Mile Road Race. This is followed by a parade from the Blanchard School to Flerra Meadows at 11:00 a.m. and then presentation of the Golden Fife Award. The Fair will then commence and include food and barbecue, including a vegetarian option, children's games and activities, volleyball tournament, booths representing Town organizations, and a craft fair. There will be live music throughout the afternoon. If you'd like further information or would like to attend one of our meetings please contact us at [captain@boxboroughminutemen.org](mailto:captain@boxboroughminutemen.org). or visit our website at <https://boxboroughminutemen.org/fifers-day>



This is a friendly reminder of the monthly Bugles Across America service

That is held the first Sunday of every month at 5 PM in Acton Center, at the Fire Station flagpole. This is a short memorial (15-20 min) to those that served

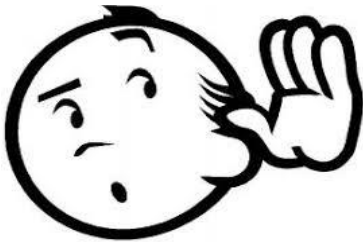
and paid the ultimate price for their service to our country defending freedom.

The service consists of the Pledge, some memorial words and then the live playing of "Taps". Location is in front of the Acton Center Fire Station (easy parking in the rear), and across the street from the Acton Monument and grave site of Abner Hosmer and Isaac Davis. Run locally by David Thoma and Dave Lunger (781-775-9922)

### V.A. Disability Claims for Hearing Loss and Tinnitus

Was your job in the military directly related to loud noise exposure? If the answer is yes there may be additional benefits available to you. If the V.A. awards a Veteran hearing

loss it is usually a 0% disability rating. This 0% rating entitles you to FREE HEARING AIDS at NO COST TO YOU. If the V.A. awards a Veteran tinnitus, a high-pitched ringing in the ears that doesn't have to be constant, it will be a disability rating of 10%. Currently, any Veteran with a 10% rating from the V.A. receives a monthly award of \$165.92. V.A. disability is TAX EXEMPT. Please contact my office to learn more.



### Acton Veteran Gift Account

A gift account has been established to help Acton Veterans and spouses as needed for basic needs. 100% of all donations go

directly to assisting those in need. If you wish to help Veterans and surviving spouses on the immediate local level please contact my office to learn more.

### \*VA Healthcare enrollees and Emergency Room visits\*

For Veterans who only have VA healthcare OR Medicare and VA Healthcare alone.

You, or a family member, must notify the VA within 72 hours of private hospital emergency room visits, ambulatory care and transport, and other emergency type care at a private facility for the VA to cover the cost of this. In these situations you must contact the national Veterans Affairs hotline for ER and ED visits @ 844-724-7842



## Massachusetts State Chapter 115 Assistance For Veterans and surviving spouses

You may be eligible for monthly medical reimbursements if you meet the following criteria:

- Assets for single Veteran or surviving spouse do not exceed \$8,400
- Assets for a married veteran do not exceed \$16,600

\*Assets DO NOT INCLUDE your primary home or vehicle\*

\*IRA's will NOT be counted as assets but rather as monthly income\*

- Monthly income should not exceed \$2265 for single veteran or surviving spouse
- Monthly income should not exceed \$3052 for a married veteran

\*If your monthly income is significantly less than the thresholds shown above, you may be eligible for additional compensation\*

\*If your income is slightly over the thresholds shown above then we may be able to assist with a partial medical reimbursement\*

Monthly medical reimbursements include the following: Prescriptions, prescription copays, hospital and doctor copays, supplemental coverage (Medex, Tufts, Blue Cross, etc), Medicare B, Medicare D and more.

★ ONE COMMUNITY ★  
★ ONE MISSION ★  
★ ONE HOME ★

# BUILDING A HOME FOR A DISABLED VETERAN

SCAN THE QR TO SUPPORT THE ACTON  
COMMUNITY'S MISSION TO BUILD AN  
ACCESSIBLE HOME FOR A SERVICE-  
DISABLED VETERAN AND FAMILY.



[COMEHOMETOACTON.ORG](http://COMEHOMETOACTON.ORG)

In Memory of Mark Starr



**VA** | Health  
care



Enrollment in VA health care gives you access to world-class medical care through the nation's largest integrated health system. Our goal is to provide you and your family with personalized, proactive, and patient-driven care.

### Did You Know...

- Nearly 6 million American Veterans have chosen VA health care—more than one-quarter of all Veterans—and many more may be eligible.
- An independent survey of Veterans indicated they are highly satisfied with VA health care and would recommend it to their friends.
- One out of every three employees of the Veterans Health Administration is a Veteran.

### VA Serves Veterans

Through your honorable service to our nation, you may be eligible for many health care services and benefits. VA serves Veterans by providing benefits to help you take care of your family; buy, retain, or modify a home; earn a degree; start a career; and stay healthy.

Explore these and other benefits and services available through VA health care:



- **Individualized, comprehensive care.** At VA, we partner with you to help you achieve optimum health throughout your lifetime. We offer a full range of health services to eligible Veterans, including primary care, maternal care, mental health counseling, prescription drug coverage, surgical services, and, in some cases, vision and dental care.
- **Accessibility.** Access VA health services at any one of our 1,200 care sites nationwide, including mobile health clinics that serve highly rural areas. Or consult your provider from home using VA clinical video telehealth technology. If you're a combat Veteran, you or any member of your family can visit one of more than 300 community-based Vet Centers, which provide transition and readjustment counseling; military sexual trauma counseling; and counseling for marriage, family, and bereavement issues. Vet Center staff can also refer you to other VA and non-VA services.
- **Innovation.** Connect with your health care team through Secure Messaging or review and update your health and prescription drug records 24/7 through secure mobile apps or online.

Veterans of recent conflicts are eligible for five years of free VA health care, regardless of the status of their disability claims. Enrollment in VA health care satisfies your Affordable Care Act health coverage requirement.

### Find Out How You Can Benefit

Submit an application form online, by mail, or in person and VA will send you written notification of your eligibility status. Explore VA health care today at [VA.gov/health-care](https://www.va.gov/health-care).



 /VeteransAffairs  
 @DeptVetAffairs

EXPLORE VA BENEFITS AT  
[VA.gov](https://www.va.gov)

