



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

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November 1, 2023

Greetings Acton and Boxborough Veterans,

I will be conducting another Veterans Census this winter, both in Acton and Boxborough, that will accompany the annual Town Census. In recent years, between Covid and the housing market, there has been a lot of change in both towns. Having said that, even if you believe you have completed a Veterans Census in previous years please complete this upcoming one. The information gathered better supports my department with the proper outreach to you all. As always, if you have any questions on State and Federal Veterans Benefits please contact my office. I wish you all a happy and healthy Veterans Day.

Regards,

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





## **VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVANCES IN ACTON AND BOXBOROUGH**

### **Veterans Day in Acton**

The Town of Acton's Veteran Services Department, as well as the Celebrations and Ceremonies Committee, invite you to join us for this year's Veterans Day Ceremony. The ceremony will be observed on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Please park behind Town Hall or behind the Fire Station. The ceremony will take place outdoors (weather permitting) by the Isaac Davis monument on the town common. In the event of inclement weather, we will move the ceremony to the Faulkner room inside town hall. All are encouraged to attend. We hope you can join us in paying reverence to our nations' heroes.

### **Veterans Day in Boxborough**

The Town of Boxborough cordially invites our Town Veterans and all residents to attend the 2023 Veterans' Day Ceremony on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> promptly at 11:00am. Taking place at the Veterans Tribute Memorial on the grounds of the Sargent Memorial Library, 427 Massachusetts Avenue. Parking is available up at the Library lot and also at the Blanchard Memorial School lot; using the bridge walkway to get to the Site. Veterans' Day recognizes the commitment and dedication of Boxborough's Veterans and their families. We look forward to seeing you there so that we can honor all of those who have served in our Armed Forces.

### **Bugles Across America**

On the first Sunday of every month at 5 p.m., we gather at our War Memorial Site, next to the Acton Fire Station across from the Common, to honor all our fallen men and women. We are not alone in doing this; people just like us are doing the same thing all over the United States at the same time. All are invited to attend.

Check out our website: [www.buglesacrossamerica.org/www.buglecall.org](http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/www.buglecall.org). In closing, let's never forget the fallen.



### **ACTON VETERANS GIFT ACCOUNT**

A gift account has been established to help Acton Veterans and surviving 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.



**The History of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor**

**Acton Health and Human Services Building, 30 Sudbury Road**

**Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:00**

Come hear the remarkable life story of Staff Sergeant Henry "Hank" Wilayto, a Polish immigrant's son. Hank survived seven years in foster care after his mother's untimely death when he was just eight. He later enlisted in the Armed Forces and was stationed in the Philippine Islands where he endured the infamous Bataan Death March and spent three-and-a-half years in Japanese prison camps. Upon his return, he became a founding member of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, a national organization that served thousands of POW veterans. Don't miss this extraordinary tale, along with precious artifacts, as shared by his daughter, Anne Wilayto Bishop. In honor of Veterans Day, this lecture is free and open to all. Offered in conjunction with Big Ideas Lecture Series.

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Breakfast**

**Acton Boxborough Regional High School, 36 Charter Road**

**Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am**

The ABRHS National Honor Society will be hosting the eleventh annual Veterans' Day Breakfast on Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Students help serve food to the veterans, and it is amazing to see their interactions. This intergenerational community event is a great time for people to share stories and get to know one another. This event is sponsored by the National Honor Society of the Acton Boxborough High School, as well as the Rotary Club of A-B.

Please RSVP by Friday, October 27th

Courtney Carp - [ccarp@abschools.org](mailto:ccarp@abschools.org)

Nancy Hall - [nhall@abschools.org](mailto:nhall@abschools.org)

High School Phone: (978) 264 3300 Ext. 44219

**Veteran and surviving spouse Benefits Discussion - Open to all**

**Acton Memorial Library, 486 Main Street**

**Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>**

Veterans' Service Officer (VSO), James MacRae, will lead a discussion on various Veteran benefits. Learn about an array of federal, state, and local benefits to which you may be entitled.

**Coffee & Chat with Kim & Veterans' Agent, James MacRae**

**Boxborough Community Center, 30 Middle Road**

**Wednesday, November 29 at 10:30 AM**

Stop in and join us for a free cup of coffee or tea and chat with Kim and the Acton-Boxborough Veterans' Services Director James MacRae.



**HELP BUILD  
A HOME  
FOR A  
DISABLED  
VETERAN  
AND FAMILY**



*Because  
Our Heroes  
Need Heroes*

This new construction home will be donated to a disabled veteran and family.



Please visit our website for more information and to learn how to contribute.



**4 Cherry Ridge Road, Acton  
Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>  
10am-2pm**

Open House! Come join us and see the progress being made on this wonderful home being built for a disabled Veteran and their family. Chat with the builders and others close to this project.



COMEHOMETOACTON.ORG  
In Memory of Mark Starr



## **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 \$2430 for single veteran or surviving spouse
- Monthly income should not exceed \$3287 for a married veteran

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

### **Monthly medical reimbursements include the following:**

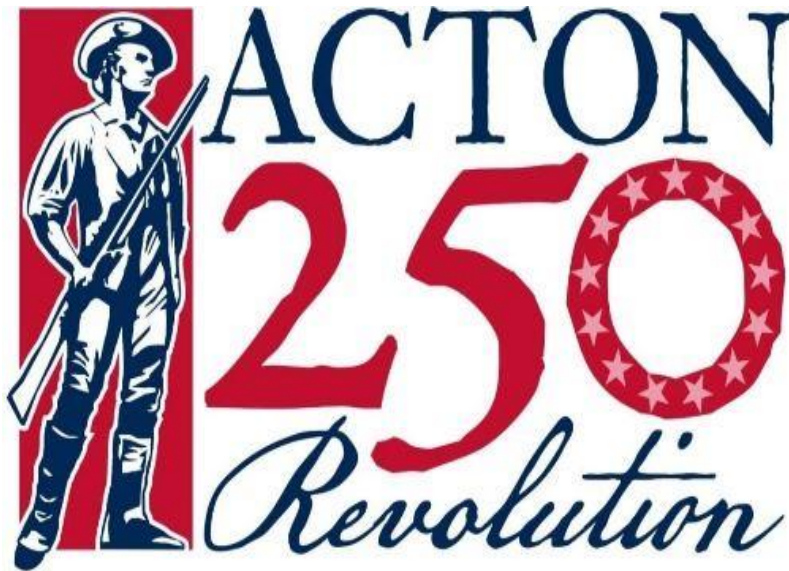
Prescriptions, prescription copays, hospital and doctor copays, supplemental coverage (Medex, Tufts, Blue Cross, etc), Medicare B, Medicare D and more.

### **Warrior Within Yoga Project in partnership with 721 Performance, is bringing our Warrior Yoga program to Concord, MA this fall.**

**Warrior Within Yoga Project, Inc.** Phone: 508-320-7225

This **free** yoga class is open to all veterans, service members, first responders and their families/caretakers. Our program is designed for the military and first responder population in mind and is a highly effective practice to manage stress & increase resilience. We incorporate adaptive practices so those of all ages and abilities can participate. Runs 10 weeks through Dec 18th. Welcome to all or any sessions. Drop ins welcome. Mondays 6-7pm starting October 16<sup>th</sup> 721 Performance - 40 Beharrell Street in Concord. Cost: Free, but must register online in advance

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/04d4f407/DwE3BPmKWkuYWySfanYPTg?u=http://www.warriorwithinyoga.org/schedule>



Starting this fall, the Acton 250 Committee will sponsor a series of lectures on the history leading up to the momentous events of 1775 and 1776. The lectures will help us understand what life was like in our community in that era and share the less told stories of residents.

Please join us on Monday, November 13 at 7:00PM at Acton Town Hall as the Acton 250 Committee focuses on the everyday people and daily life in Acton with Mary Fuhrer. This illustrated talk will explore family, households, farms, neighbors, and the fabric of village life to recover the world of the Minutemen. It was a world far different from our own; it is the world that laid the groundwork for revolution. The Acton 250 Committee continues to sponsor a series of lectures on the history leading up to the momentous events of 1775 and 1776. The lectures will help us understand what life was like in our community in that era and share the less told stories of residents. This presentation will be available live on Acton TV and by zoom at <https://actonma.zoom.us/j/81741134640>. All event information is located at <http://www.actonma.gov/250>.

Mary Fuhrer is a Ph.D. social historian who for the past 30 years has interpreted village life in colonial and early Republic Massachusetts. She has authored two books and numerous articles on daily life and change in small town Massachusetts, presented at history conferences and institutes, and served as a consulting historian to Freedom's Way, Massachusetts Humanities, and the Massachusetts Historical Society, as well as serving as the co-author of *Mass Moments*. She was awarded the Massachusetts History Commendation for her work in public history.