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Arapahoe County salutes our veterans and active service members *Nov. 10 Treats for Troops Bake Sale will support service dogs for veterans*

Littleton, Colo. – Veterans Day, Nov. 11, honors the men and women who have served and sacrificed in our nation's armed forces. The holiday was created at the end of World War I in 1918 and called Armistice Day; it was renamed by Congress in 1954 to recognize all veterans who have served our country.

Arapahoe County is home to more than 45,000 veterans, accounting for 11 percent of Colorado's total veteran population, according to the 2010 Census. These brave citizens fight for our nation, yet often return home to a lengthy struggle to access state and federal veteran benefits after their honorable service.

The Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office works hard to advocate for and assist veterans with filing a claim for benefits with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Accredited Veterans Service Officer Rick Stewart assists veterans and their dependents with filing a claim for service connected disability, pension, burial benefits, enrollment in VA healthcare and education. There is no fee of any kind for these services. In the past three years, the County Veterans Service Office has prepared and presented more than 1,220 individual pieces of legal correspondence with the VA and helped recover \$2.5 million in claims for veterans.

"Filing a claim for veteran benefits can be a technical and complicated process," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig. "The County's Veterans Service Office is here to help veterans to pursue claims for any benefits for which they may be eligible."

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office at 303-738-8045 or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

Treats for Troops Bake Sale

As a special tradition to commemorate Veterans Day, the Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office will host its 3rd annual *Treats for Troops Bake Sale* to raise funds for a local non-profit that supports veterans. The sale will take place Thursday, Nov. 10 from 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the lobby of the Arapahoe County Administration Building (5334 S. Prince Street, Littleton). Proceeds will benefit Freedom Service Dogs, an Englewood-based non-profit that provides service dogs to veterans who return from service with a life-altering disability.

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To download photos, please click the following link:

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/Veteran/Dog.JPG>

Caption: The Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office will be donating the proceeds of its Nov. 10 Treats for Troops Bake Sale to Freedom Service Dogs, which provides service dogs to veterans with a life-altering disability. *(Pictured here: Veterans Service Officer Rick Stewart with Freedom Service Dogs representative Erin Leeper and a service dog.)*