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## **County assists military veterans with filing for VA benefits**

*Veterans Service Office offers free assistance to veterans and dependents*

**Littleton, Colo.** — To commemorate National County Government Month, Arapahoe County is proud to call attention to the April theme *Serving our Veterans, Armed Forces, and Their Families* by highlighting the services that are offered to Arapahoe County veterans and their dependents.

The Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office assists residents with understanding and filing claims for benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans Service Officer Rick Stewart helps residents with the preparation, presentation and possible appeal of claims for service connected disability, pension, burial benefits, enrollment in V.A. healthcare and education, survivor and dependent benefits as well as providing referrals for employment benefits. Stewart also can provide referrals for employment benefits, counseling, and drug or alcohol treatment. There is no fee for these services.

“Claiming veteran benefits can be a complicated and emotional process,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig. “Our accredited Veterans Service Officer serves as an advocate, explaining what’s required to file a claim and assisting with submitting documentation to the V.A.”

In 2010, 7,500 veterans and their family members were served by the County Veterans Service Office, and \$1.5 million in recoveries were awarded by the V.A. to eligible residents. Eligibility criteria for veteran benefits vary. Benefits are available to those who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces.

To schedule an appointment for services, please call 303-738-8045 or visit the Arapahoe County Veterans Service Office at 1690 W. Littleton Blvd., Suite 103, Littleton. For more information, please visit [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us) and click on “Services,” then “Veterans Services.”

**To download photos, click on the following link:**

<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Photos/Veterans>

**CVSO.jpg:** Arapahoe County Veteran Service Officer Rick Stewart (left) assists veterans in obtaining federal and state benefits.

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