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**Rogers County launches 'Operation Green Light' Nov. 7-13
supporting local veterans**

ROGERS COUNTY, Okla.– In recognition of Veterans Day, Rogers County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) unanimously approved to host Operation Green Light during a recent board meeting.

The Rogers County Courthouse will be illuminated green November 7th through the 13th as part of the initiative supporting Rogers County veterans.

Operation Green Light is spearheaded by National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers, building upon the successful efforts of the New York State Association of Counties and the NYS County Veteran Service Officers' Association in 2021. NACo is comprised of 3,069 member counties across the nation.

Rogers County Commissioner Ron Burrows, a veteran himself, presented the initiative to board members Commissioner Chairman Steve Hendrix of District 2 and Commissioner Dan DeLozier of District 1.

Burrows served in the Army National Guard with the 144th Medical Evacuation Hospital Unit from 1981-1987 and is currently a very active committee member on both NACo and Veteran's Affairs. He learned of this initiative during a meeting with NACo a few months ago.

He said, “This collaboration being done locally and nationally is to bring awareness to issues faced by our veterans. By illuminating the courthouse green, we want veterans to know that they are appreciated and supported. It's just a way of recognizing our veterans in counties, who also work for our county [government], and across America. We want them to be proud of this recognition.”

Commissioner DeLozier said the recognition is vital especially with what veterans and their families face upon their return from service. He said, “It is very important we let our veterans know we respect them for their service — then and now.”

DeLozier's dad, Captain Samuel Don DeLozier, died from injuries in a helicopter crash in Goeppingen, Germany on May 27, 1963 — while serving in the military. DeLozier was seven years old when he and his five siblings lost their 28-year-old dad. "Anything military- related is very personal to me. This is another way to show I support them," he said.

Commissioner Chairman Hendrix emphasized, "We are always pleased and honored to recognize our Veterans' service just as we do with the Eternal Flame that we keep lit out front [Rogers County Courthouse] 365 days a year."

The referenced monument displays names of those lost (from Rogers County) in World War I, World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, the War on Terrorism — which includes Iraq and Afghanistan — and Rogers County first responders who lost their lives in uniform.

"Operation Green Light is a simple way to express our collective appreciation for the public service of our veterans," said NACo President Denise Winfrey. "We encourage everyone to join us in displaying a green light for our veterans and to also reflect on how we, as a nation and at the county level, assist our military service personal back into civilian life upon completion of their service to our country."

While this event is focused around the week of Veterans Day, the community is encouraged to continue shining the light year-round. Residents can share their participation on social media using the hashtag #RogersCounty4Veterans and #OperationGreenLight.

The initiative additionally brings about awareness of the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources that are available across the nation to assist them and their families.

Rogers County Public Information Officer Diana Dickinson identified some local resources available to assist veterans facing challenges.

"Those challenges can range from immediate needs like food and shelter to more long-term needs like disability benefits or long-term care. There are some veterans who are not aware of the benefits they have earned," Dickinson said.

Trained experts in many areas who aid veterans are:

- Rogers County Charter 44 of Disabled American Veterans — located at 801 West Dupont Street in Claremore — can be reached various times at 918-342-8990.
- Veterans of Foreign Wars — 1717 West Dupont Street in Claremore — can be reached Mon-Fri 9:00AM-5:00PM at 918-342-5730.
- Claremore Veterans Center [Veterans Benefits Administrator] Otis Kimball at 918-342-5432 or Otis.kimball@odva.ok.gov.

- Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs: Call 405-521-3684 or visit <http://odva.ok.gov>.
- American Red Cross 1-877-272-7337.
- Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647 or www.militaryonesource.mil offers a variety of services 24/7 which include non-medical counseling.

To learn about future County Commissioner related business, such as public meetings or bridge/road projects, you can visit Rogers County on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.