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Buffalo County Lights County Landmarks in Support of Veterans for “Operation Green Light”

Kearney, NE – Buffalo County announced today that the Buffalo County Court House has been illuminated green as part of Operation Green Light for Veterans, a nationwide effort by counties, the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

From November 7th -12th, county buildings and landmarks across the country will be illuminated green to show support for veterans and raise awareness around the resources available at the county, state, and federal levels to assist veterans and their families.

Now more than ever, our veterans need our support. On the verge of another war in the middle east and in a time when our country is divided on so many issues, we have to remember those who are serving and who have served to protect our country and our way of life.

Operation Green Light is a nationwide campaign now in it’s second year and is expected to draw hundreds of counties to participate. The county role in administering services for veterans includes County Veterans Service Officers helping fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year, as well as other services supporting the approximately 200,000 service members who transition into civilian communities annually.

“We have a new County Veteran Service Officer in Kearney and Buffalo County, Matt Starkey. Since July 2023, Matt and his staff are busy connecting our veterans to federal and state benefits. They help our veterans apply for and obtain disability and compensation benefits, manage their VA medical care and assist them with access to the whole spectrum of benefits available to them” said Chairman Klein of the Buffalo County Board of Commissioners.

“We are very proud and honored to participate in such a great event to show our support for our local veterans” said Chairman Klein.

“Many of our country’s veterans, including those right here in Buffalo County, struggle in the transition back to civilian life. No where is that more obvious than in the high suicide rate among our veterans and they deserve better” said Matthew Starkey, Buffalo County Veteran Service Officer.

In addition to lighting county buildings, bridges, and other meaningful landmarks, residents, businesses and other organizations are encouraged to participate by simply changing one light bulb in their home to a green bulb. This can be an exterior light that neighbors and passersby see, or an interior light that sparks a conversation with friends. By shining a green light, we let our veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported.

Counties and residents across the country are sharing their participation on social media using the hashtag #OperationGreenLight.

If you are a Veteran or the family member of a veteran, first of all, **THANK YOU** for your service! And second of all, if you need assistance, please reach out to our Buffalo County Veteran Service Office at (308) 236-1253.