

Department of  **News**per
Veterans Affairs News Release

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
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Community and Veterans Celebration - Sunday, May 22, 2011
Conifer Community Park at Beaver Ranch
11369 S Foxtan Road, Conifer, Colorado 80433

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONIFER - Veterans have served and protected the United States of America and continue to do so today. U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Regional Office, VA Eastern Colorado Healthcare System (ECHCS), VA Vets Center, the Community Veterans Coalition, and 9Health Fair, are honoring their dedication by returning no-cost services to them.

The **Community and Veterans Celebration** will be held on **Sunday, May 22, 2011**, at the Conifer Community Park at Beaver Ranch, 11369 S Foxtan Road, Conifer, Colorado 80433, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Denver organizations are working with the Community Veterans Coalition to provide life-enriching services focusing on Veterans living in the Colorado mountain communities of Jefferson and Park counties, but *all* Veterans are welcomed and will be served. VA employees will be on hand to provide Veterans benefits servicing and some medical screening to attending Veterans.

VA organizations at this first ever event include VA Regional Office (Benefits processing), ECHCS (medical), and the Vets Center (Counseling). Other Veteran-centric organizations supporting this event include: VFW, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Young Marines, Intermountain Rural Electric Association (IREA), Conifer Community Park at Beaver Ranch, Veterans Green Jobs, Mountain Resource Center, Conifer Rotary Club, Conifer Lions Club, Women Veterans of Colorado, Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs, Colorado National Guard, Elk Creek and Inter-Canyon Fire Departments, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and 9HealthFair.

Veterans can apply for VA benefits on-site and gain access to eBenefits and My HealthVet. These systems allow Veterans to access their benefit and health information and contact VA electronically with their concerns. The ECHCS will provide flu shots, blood pressure, and basic medical screening to veterans on site. 9HealthFair will provide selected blood screening for Veterans, as resources permit. Additional services not available at the initial screening will be handled on a case-by-case basis by ECHCS.

VA Regional Office

155 Van Gordon St.
Lakewood, CO 80228

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A Mobile Veterans Center complete with counselors and counseling rooms will be present. VA personnel and Veteran Service Organizations will also be available to explain claims processes and initiate claims. The Community Veterans Coalition, in cooperation with VA, will help to provide a combination of healthcare; information on loans, insurance, education, grants; information on housing and special adaptive housing programs; job opportunities and job training; information on pensions and benefits; help with women's issues; information on youth programs and shelter availability. Clothing, some dry goods and toiletries will also be available.

The Community Veterans Coalition and VA are committed to developing programs that reach out to Veterans in need of benefits and services available through the Department of Veterans Affairs and other community organizations.

For more information on this press release or VA contact Rebecca Sawyer Smith, Public Affairs Office, Denver VA Regional Office. For more information on the Community Veterans Coalition, please contact Joe Dix, 303-880-2321, 4adam25@wispertel.net.

For more information on VA benefits, visit www.va.gov, call 1-800-827-1000, or visit a nearby Regional Office.