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For additional information and to set up interviews contact:

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NEWS RELEASE: *Annual Portland Veterans Stand Down to serve over 400 vulnerable veterans on 9/11, a national day of service & remembrance.*

PORTLAND, OR. -- In a continuing effort to provide housing, employment, and other critical services for Veterans who have fallen on hard times, the annual **Portland Veterans Stand Down** will be held on **Monday, September 11, 2017** at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Nationally recognized as a day of service and remembrance, this 9/11 event will engage over 125 volunteers from the community, including national employers such as Starbucks, Kaiser Permanente, and the Veterans Administration.

This one-day event - the largest in Oregon - is presented by Transition Projects and assists veterans in need by offering access to service providers, employment opportunities, housing, medical and dental care, pet services, haircuts, clothing, and much more.

The focus this year will be on continuing the fight against veteran homelessness by offering support to those experiencing homelessness as well as those at greatest risk of becoming homeless. Over 100 service providers will be on hand along with 45 company employers ready to interview and hire on-site.

- ▶ **The event begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 2:00 p.m.**
- ▶ **Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. Veterans are not required to pre-register.**
- ▶ **Over 400 veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness are expected.**

Kicking off the event at 9:00 a.m. will be Transition Projects Executive Director George Devendorf, who will speak about the importance of connecting Veterans to resources – particularly housing. He will then introduce Mayor Ted Wheeler who will address the audience. U.S. Navy Veteran and Transition Projects Veteran Case Manager Greg Walker will address the veterans in attendance. The U.S. National Guard's Color Guard will present the colors as the event officially gets underway at 9:15 a.m. for veterans to begin accessing programs and services.

DETAILS:

- ▶ **PRESENTERS:** Transition Projects & Community Partners
- ▶ **EVENT:** 2017 Portland Veterans Stand Down
- ▶ **VENUE:** Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 300 N Winning Way Portland, OR
- ▶ **DATE:** Monday, September 11, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ▶ **PARKING:** Public transportation is encouraged. Free parking is available in the Garden Garage for Veterans, volunteers, community partners
- ▶ **MORE INFO:** PDXStandDown.org | tprojects.org
- ▶ **MEDIA:** **Please contact Roma Peyser for on-site access & interviews**

Stand Down 2017 Sponsors

American Legion Auxiliary
Banfield Pet Hospital
Beneficial State Bank
Bishops Barbershop
BOMA
Clean & Safe
Comcast
Columbia River Chapter of
the U.S. Army Association
Domino's Pizza
Charles & Michele Ducharme

Daniel & Micki Goldstein
Kirshbaum Family
Jesse Knight
New Seasons Market
Oregon National Guard Association
Portland Business Alliance
Bruce & Jan Prunk
Returning Veterans Project
Arlene Schnitzer
Starbucks Coffee
SnowCap Community Charities
Sunshine Division

Stand Down 2017 Community Partners

American Red Cross
Central City Concern
City of Portland
Easterseals
Impact NW
Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans for Human Rights
WorkSource Portland Metro

About the Stand Down

In war time, exhausted combat troops were removed from battlefields to places of security and safety for rest and recovery. At home, Stand Down refers to grassroots, community-based interventions designed to help the nation's estimated 39,471 homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets.

Stand Downs honor and support veterans who have fallen on hard times by helping them access essential supportive services, explore employment opportunities, and connect to local, state, and federal support systems. Last fall, more than 400 veterans experiencing homelessness attended the Portland Stand Down, Oregon's largest. Of those, nearly 200 were connected to services for the first time – a testament to the engagement potential offered by the event.

About Transition Projects

Transition Projects has been serving the needs of people experiencing homelessness for over 48 years. In recent years, our Veteran Services team has spearheaded local efforts to end veteran homelessness in the Portland metro area. But while tremendous progress has been made, much work remains. Today, Transition Projects and our partners continue to reach out to homeless veterans throughout the metro area and provide them with the support they need to secure and retain safe, decent housing. For more about Transition Projects and our services for Veterans, please **visit our website at www.tprojects.org**.

Additional Resources

<https://endhomelessness.org/resource/veteran-homelessness/>