

**A PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 3 - 11, 2025, AS
OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS**

WHEREAS, the residents of Arapahoe County hold unwavering respect, profound admiration, and boundless gratitude for the brave individuals who answered the call to serve, sacrificing their own comfort and safety to protect the freedoms we cherish; and

Commented [TS1]: individuals?

WHEREAS, the heroic contributions and sacrifices of those who wore or currently wear the uniform are the cornerstone of preserving the freedoms and way of life that define Arapahoe County; and

Commented [KS2]: and currently wear?

WHEREAS, veterans are our neighbors, coaches, teachers, and community leaders, continuing their service long after hanging up their uniforms, and we recognize that their courage echoes through every corner of our County; and

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County veterans exemplify the spirit of service that defines Colorado, continuing to give back through organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, faith communities, and public service.

WHEREAS, we are especially proud to honor Arapahoe County's dedicated County Veterans Service Officers who help fellow veterans access federal benefits they've earned; and

WHEREAS; we want to recognize our Veteran Service Officers for their work to recover over \$12 million in claims last year for our veterans through the submission of a record 789 disability claims; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually, with an estimated 20 percent increase expected soon; and

Commented [TS3]: Can we include some of our VSO stats around here somewhere?
-789 disability claims submitted
-\$12.3 million in claims recovered

Courtney or Kathy would have additional!

WHEREAS, the journey home from military service can be fraught with invisible wounds and overwhelming challenges, as studies show that nearly three-quarters of returning heroes face intense stress during their transition to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, tragically, too many of our brave service members face their darkest hour during that crucial first year after leaving military service, when the risk of suicide reaches its peak; and

Commented [TS4R3]: OH! Would we be able to plug the Altura office's remodel/open house on Nov. 13? Expanded resources for veterans including partners from Healing Warriors and VetCenter, a new healing space (potential therapy options?)

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

Maybe Courtney can touch on this more after the proclamation?

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

Commented [KS5R3]: Yes, I would like to include the VSO specific stats for Arapahoe County. Those are from last year.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Arapahoe County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 3, 2025, through Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, as **Operation Green Light for Veterans**, a time for our County to stand as one community in saluting and honoring the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform who are transitioning from active service, and we call upon every citizen of Arapahoe County to join this patriotic tradition by illuminating their

Commented [KS6R3]: I do believe Courtney plans to mention the Altura items during her statements.

homes, businesses, and hearts with green lights—beacons of hope, gratitude, and unwavering support—displayed proudly from November 3 - 11, 2025, so that no veteran in our County will ever doubt that their service matters, their sacrifice is remembered, and their community stands ready to welcome them home.