



## News from Livingston County, N.Y.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Operation Green Light to Aid Returning Veterans in Livingston County**

**GENESEO, N.Y., October 4, 2021** – Deployments and training exercises are challenging elements of military service, but for some the most difficult part of their enlistment can be the transition back to civilian life, known among veterans as expiration of term of service (ETS).

Operation Green Light, a partnership between the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and the New York State County Veteran Service Officer Association (NYS CVSOA), is looking to fix that. The campaign aims to ease the ETS transition by encouraging counties state-wide to adopt a number of veteran-friendly initiatives, such as removing residency requirements on civil service exams for active duty military personnel, having local businesses commit to hiring veterans prior to their ETS, and the creation of the ETS Mentorship Program, which connects locals with a transitioning military member to offer their support and advice.

Livingston County Veteran Services Director Jason Skinner is working to implement Operation Green Light locally, starting with a resolution naming Livingston County as a Green Light for Military Service County. He's also inviting residents and business owners to display a green light in their window or on porches as a visible sign of support for returning veterans. Skinner said with suicide rates for veterans around 1.5 times more than those of the civilian population, more needs to be done to help returning service members during the uncertainty of their ETS transition.

"In the military, typically your housing and healthcare is paid for, you're given orders on where to be, when to be there, and exactly how to dress," explained Skinner. "To go from that regimented lifestyle to the freedom of civilian life can be very jarring. We hope that by easing this ETS transition, we can encourage more veterans to plant their roots here in Livingston County."

#### **About Livingston County:**

Founded in 1821, Livingston County, N.Y., is comprised of more than 61,000 residents in 17 towns located across 640 square miles of the Finger Lakes region.

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