



— WESTERN SLOPE — VETERANS COALITION

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Contact: Aide Munoz, 970-233-8735, amunoz@Westernslopeveterans.org
Alan Sandberg, 970-384-3216, alansandberg@alpinebank.com

Open House to Connect Veterans with Service Providers & Celebrate Expansion of Veterans Resource Center

***Western Slope Veterans Coalition to host grand reopening with ribbon cutting,
tours and overview of services***

May 17, 2021 — Glenwood Springs, Colo. — The nonprofit Western Slope Veterans Coalition (WSVC) invites the community to celebrate the expansion and reopening of the **Jesse Beckius/Casey Owens Veterans Resource Center**, at 801 Colorado Avenue in Glenwood Springs, on Sunday, June 13, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. A celebratory ribbon cutting and the presentation of military colors will take place at 1:00 p.m. Organizers will offer tours to the public, and agencies that provide veterans' services will be on hand. In addition the 19th Street Diner will serve food by donation, with all proceeds benefiting the WSVC.

"We're excited to celebrate the re-opening of our Veterans Resource Center, now several times larger than before thanks to Garfield County and their generous support in repurposing the space for our use, and for underwriting the lease," says Greg Rosenmerkel, volunteer president of the WSVC and retired United States Air Force colonel. "The larger space will improve our ability to accomplish our mission. That's providing outreach to veterans and their families while connecting veterans to local agencies and Veterans Administration resources."

The Western Slope Veterans Coalition began in 2016 with informal coffee and donut sessions at the local libraries. It moved to downtown Glenwood Springs in 2017. This original space was made possible through a generous lease agreement with Garfield County.

In 2020, Garfield County added 3,500 square feet to the existing 1,500 square-foot facility. This has enabled the WSVC to expand its offerings.

"It's now a comfortable space for veterans to drop in, connect with other vets, perform research and access services," says John Pettit, Marine Corps veteran and founder of the WSVC.

With the additional space, the Veterans Resource Center now provides free computer and internet access for vets' use, a meeting facility, a library, game room and recreation space.

Currently the center is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The hours may expand in the future once community needs are evaluated.

The grand reopening is made possible by sponsors including Colorado Mountain College, Alpine Bank and the 19th Street Dinner.

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About the Western Slope Veterans Coalition: In 2015, after the tragic suicides of two Marine Corps combat veterans, locals Jesse Beckius and Casey Owens, a group of veterans from the Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys came together to create a network of support and assistance for fellow veterans in Garfield, Eagle and Pitkin counties. Organizers identified the need to increase coordination and resources in support of those with military experience. From the work of this committed group of volunteers, the nonprofit Western Slope Veterans Coalition was born. Today, the Jesse Beckius/Casey Owens Veterans Resource Center, operated by the WSVC, provides a hub for information, action, programs and activities that support, honor and connect veterans in the three-county region. www.westernslopeveterans.org