FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Aleda E. Lutz VA celebrates National Veterans and Military Families Month 2018 with events honoring Veterans and their families

Saginaw, MI — Yesterday evening, President Donald Trump declared November 2018 the second annual National Veterans and Military Families Month to “salute the brave and dedicated patriots who have worn the uniform of the United States, and…celebrate the extraordinary military families whose selfless service and sacrifice make our military the finest in the world.”

Beginning in 2017, President Trump proclaimed November Veterans and Military Families Month, marking the first time America celebrated Veterans and military families for the entire month and not just on Veterans Day; in keeping with the President’s strong focus on improving care and benefits to our nation’s heroes.

That tradition continues again this year with more than 300 events at VA hospitals, benefits offices and cemeteries across the country, including:

• senior leader visits to VA facilities
• open houses
• town halls
• benefits claims clinics
• volunteer recognitions
• homeless Veteran initiative events
• suicide prevention events
• faith-based community events
• flag planting tributes at national cemeteries

To celebrate Veterans and Military Families Month locally, the Aleda E. Lutz VA will hold the following events honoring Veterans and their families throughout the month of November:

• Veteran Resource Event, Aleda E. Lutz VA, 1500 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI, on November 7, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.
• Donuts and Dog Tags Veterans Appreciation Event, hosted by the Traverse City VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in collaboration with American Legion Post 35 and Disabled American Veterans Chapter 38. The event will be held on November 9, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post 35, 1231 Hastings Street, Traverse City, MI.
• Additional events for Veterans receiving inpatient/residential care will include special visits by Veteran Service Organizations, a Marine Corps League Birthday celebration, gifts for Veterans, a musical concert, and a special event and meal for Veterans Day.

• VA staff will also attend a Veterans Day Ceremony and Wreath Laying at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Saginaw on November 11, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. and an event at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan, also held on November 11, 2018, at 11:00 a.m.

This year’s celebration of Veterans and Military Families Month caps an unprecedented period of improvement for VA, as the department has made groundbreaking progress over the last two years in the areas of accountability, transparency and efficiency across the department while enjoying an important series of legislative successes.

“At VA, Veterans and their families are at the center of everything we do. Veterans and Military Families Month is an opportunity for us to honor the service of these patriots while educating communities about VA benefits and services and our commitment to customer service improvement,” VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said.

“It is with pride and gratitude we are able to serve Veterans at the Aleda E. Lutz VA in Saginaw, as well as the Health Care Annex and our nine Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Alpena, Bad Axe, Cadillac, Cheboygan County, Clare, Gaylord, Grayling, Oscoda, and Traverse City. We continue to strive for excellence in all we do and always welcome the voice of the Veteran in helping us identify opportunities for improving their VA. There is no better time than during Veterans and Military Families Month to invite Veterans to explore enrollment into the VA for their earned health care benefits. Please visit any VA facility or explore www.vets.gov to learn how you may be eligible for care, benefits, and more,” stated Dr. Barbara Bates, Acting Medical Center Director.

The full list of national events for Veterans and Military Families month is available at this link.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 36,700 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.

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