



**Office of  
Representative Hannah E. Kane  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

*For Immediate Release*

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**Representative Kane Announces 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Event  
Celebrating Armed Forces Day**

*Legislators Representing the Central MA Veterans' Service District Invite Community Members of Grafton, Northborough, Shrewsbury and Westborough to Join in Honoring Active and Retired Military Personnel.*

*Congressman Jim McGovern, Massachusetts National Guard Director of Veterans Affairs and Retired Brigadier General Paul "Greg" Smith to Attend.*

**SHREWSBURY** - Representative Hannah E. Kane (R-Shrewsbury) announced today that the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Armed Forces Day event, honoring all active and retired service men and women, active or retired, will take place at SAC Park, 438 Lake Street, Shrewsbury, on Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 9AM -10:30 AM.

Representative Kane will be joined by several of her colleagues in the Legislature whom are co-sponsors of the annual event: Representative Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston), Representative Danielle Gregoire (D-Marlborough), Representative David Muradian (R-Grafton), Representative Harold Naughton (D-Clinton), Senator Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester), Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) and Senator Michael Moore (D-Millbury). The delegation represents the Central Massachusetts Veterans' Service district of Shrewsbury, Westborough, Northborough and Grafton. The event is free and open to all active and retired military personnel and members of the public who would like to take part in honoring those who have served.

"Armed Forces Day provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of our courageous military personnel. It is a privilege to be in the company of so many selfless and honorable patriots and I am pleased to once again co-host this community celebration with my legislative colleagues," said Representative Hannah Kane. "I always look forward to sharing this day with the Central Massachusetts community. I believe it

is incumbent upon us to recognize our indebtedness to those who have served as well as their families, and this community gathering is a means for those of all ages to do so.”

“There is no greater honor than to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of our service members and their families,” said Senator Michael O. Moore. “Armed Forces Day reaffirms our deep appreciation to those who serve, and celebrates their contributions to promote freedom on the home-front and abroad. Special thanks to my legislative colleague, Representative Kane, for organizing this event each year, and to members of the surrounding communities for their ongoing support.”

“I am honored to have the opportunity to join with our friends and neighbors in Central Massachusetts to recognize our active and retired military personnel and their service to our country,” stated Representative David Muradian. “This event will be a great opportunity to not only gather together, but also show our thanks to the members of our United States Military.”

Armed Forces Day was created in 1949 by then US Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson, to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force days and unify all branches of the military under the Department of Defense. It is a day to pay tribute to those actively serving and those who have served their country in times of war and peace.

“It is an honor to work with Rep. Kane and our Central Mass. colleagues to recognize and thank our veterans and active-duty military for their service to our nation,” said Representative Carolyn Dykema. “The MetroWest and the greater Worcester regions are home to veterans for whom service is a way of life, and we are proud to celebrate them.”

“It is an honor to once again have the opportunity to celebrate our men and women in the armed forces at this annual event,” said Representative Danielle Gregoire. “As the daughter and granddaughter of veterans, I welcome the opportunity to offer my sincerest gratitude for their service.”

This year’s event will feature guest speakers including **Congressman Jim McGovern and Retired Brigadier General Paul “Greg” Smith, Director of Veterans Affairs of the Massachusetts National Guard.** Special remarks to be provided by **Jason Arigoni, Home Depot’s Regional Vice President, Bill Rodgers, Home Depot’s Live Goods Merchant** and a United States Navy veteran, and **Retired Colonel Jeff Perry, Home Depot’s Human Resources Manager** regarding the *company’s commitment to supporting veterans and Home Depot’s 2018 Veterans Inc. project in Shrewsbury.* Shrewsbury High School graduate and University of New Hampshire student Carly O’Brien will perform the National Anthem and God Bless America and the Grafton Job

Corp Color Guard will post the flags. The Westborough High School band, under the direction of Evan Doyle, will perform patriotic musical accompaniments. Father Michael Rose of St. Mary's Parish in Shrewsbury will offer a prayer. Attendees will enjoy music, readings and a continental breakfast prepared by Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School Culinary Program students while hearing remarks on the branches of the military.

“Armed Forces Day gives us the opportunity to show our respect and gratitude for the men and women in uniform,” stated Representative Harold Naughton. “It is an honor to be able to participate in this event and give thanks to the armed forces community, whether they’re active duty or veterans.”

"I look forward to joining everyone in our communities on Armed Forces Day to show appreciation for members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard," said Senator Jamie Eldridge. "Local events give us a chance to acknowledge our local heroes, reflect on their service to our country, and to raise awareness about supportive programs for those serving and their families."

“Veterans and active duty service members have dedicated their lives to our safety, and it is our responsibility to ensure that service members can continue to thrive when they come back home. I am proud to see the Central Massachusetts community rallying in support of service members today and every day,” stated Senator Harriette Chandler.

All members of the community are welcomed and encouraged to attend. For more information or to RSVP please contact Gayle Vigeant at [gayle.v2018@gmail.com](mailto:gayle.v2018@gmail.com) or 508-341-0578.

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