

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kristen Eaton

vermont@vetstownhall.org

www.vtvetstownhall.org

VERMONT VETERANS SHARE THEIR STORIES
Over 50 veterans speak in community storytelling series

Richmond, Vermont – November 18, 2025: In the first two weeks of November, a series of community events brought together approximately 300 Vermonters to listen to the voices of over fifty veterans, each sharing personal stories of their time in military service and how those experiences have affected them. These nonpolitical events were facilitated by Vermont-based nonprofit Vets Town Hall, in partnership with local organizations and individuals.

Beginning with an event in the State House and ending in the Charlotte Grange, the series of Vets Town Halls aimed to increase understanding between veterans and non-veterans in our state. Other locations included Bennington, Brattleboro, Colchester, Rutland, and Saint Johnsbury.

Speakers touched on a wide range of subjects, including reasons for joining, wartime experiences, camaraderie and friendship, post-traumatic stress, military sexual trauma, resilience, the importance of humor, skills and values gained through military service, and how military service impacted a veteran's family. At times, veterans spoke through tears, whereas at other times, the speaker and attendees shared laughter at a humorous reflection.

"What was meaningful to me is to listen to the veterans speak from their hearts, some for the first time," says Frank Wetherby, emcee of the Bennington Vets Town Hall at the Vermont Veterans Home. Frank served in the US Army from 1965 -1986.

Vets Town Hall is a small 501(c)(3) based in Vermont that works to bring these events to communities across the country. Since each event is free, the organization relies on donations to keep this work sustainable. Donations may be made at vetstownhall.org/donate or by check sent to PO Box 112, Richmond, VT. Anyone who is interested in bringing a Vets Town Hall to their hometown in 2026 can reach out to Kristen Eaton at vermont@vetstownhall.org.

Community partners for this year's Vets Town Halls include emcees Michelle Caver, James Ehlers, Tristram Johnson, Marty McMahon, Misha Pemble-Belkin, Norman VanCor, and Frank Wetherby; local organizers, partners and volunteers American Legion Post 5 Veterans Coffee Hour, the Capitol Police, Catamount Arts, Charlotte Grange, Civil Air Patrol Rutland Composite Squadron, Godnick Adult Center, Lt. Governor John Rodgers, James Ehlers, Rep. Jill Krowinski, Saint Michael's College Military

Community Services, Saint Michael's College Student Veterans Association, Vermont State House Sergeant at Arms, Social Tinkering, Vermont Adaptive's Veteran Ventures, Vermont Veterans' Home, and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1; outreach partners Bayada, *The Bridge*, Community College of Vermont, Howard Center, and Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging; and in-kind donors including Cabot Creamery Co-operative, Capitol Grounds Cafe, Chapin Orchard, City Market, Dakin Farm, Hunger Mountain Co-op, Krin's Bakery, Positive Pie, and Skinny Pancake. Vets Town Halls in Vermont are supported in part by Vermont Humanities and the Vermont Veterans Fund.

###