

# NORWALK ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO 'GREENLIGHT A VET'

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[Norwalk encourages residents to 'Greenlight A Vet'](#) By ROBERT KOCH

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NORWALK -- When you see green lights while walking into the Norwalk Library or driving past the Norwalk Green or elsewhere, think of a veteran.

"People are encouraged to put a green light out near their house just to show support," said Erin E. Herring, assistant city clerk and veterans' liaison for the city. "This way (veterans) will know from the general public that they're not forgotten and that people realize the sacrifices that they've made."

Walmart launched the "Greenlight A Vet" initiative to shine a light on 250,000 military servicemen and women transitioning back to civilian life each year. Herring and other local officials are hoping Norwalkers will pick up on the idea.

So far, the First Taxing District has lighted its gazebo on the Norwalk Green with green lights. Norwalk Public Library has done the same at the Main Library on Belden Avenue and the South Norwalk Branch Library on Washington Street.

"Since the city is supporting the green light for veterans initiative, we just replaced our bulbs at the entrance to the main library," said Norwalk Public Library Director Christine Bradley.

The "Greenlight A Vet" initiative comes as Veterans Day 2015 approaches.

The Norwalk Veterans Memorial Committee's (NVMC) 2015 Veterans Day Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Norwalk Concert Hall inside City Hall, 125 East Ave. The event will begin with a concert by the American Festival Band at 9:30 a.m. followed by the ceremony at 10 a.m. Students from Columbus Magnet School also will perform, according to Dan Caporale, NVMC chairman and U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

"We added a Columbus Magnet School choir. They're going to sing a tribute to the veterans," he said.

Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr., a West Norwalk resident and former state House Republican leader, will deliver the keynote speech at the ceremony.

While Veterans Day 2015 will pass, Herring hopes Norwalk residents will continue to go green for veterans throughout the year.

"It's just to show support for veterans -- not just on Veterans Day but every day," Herring said.

Walmart, meanwhile, encourages Americans to hire a veteran or help a veteran find a job, start a mentor/mentee relationship with a returning veteran, raise awareness about veterans on social media, or "simply signal support by changing your porch light to green."