

Lanza: Extend ‘Bells For Veterans’ Throughout The County In 2020

Hunterdon County Freeholder Board Deputy Director John E. Lanza has called for a county-wide ‘Bells for Veterans’ effort on Veterans’ Day in 2020.

For the second consecutive year, the bell at Hunterdon County’s Historic Courthouse in Flemington tolled twenty-one times on Veterans’ Day, November 11th, at 11 am, to honor the service of all Veterans.

Freeholder Lanza, the Board’s Veterans’ liaison, during remarks at the November 6th Freeholder meeting, suggested that “the ‘Bells for Veterans’ program be expanded in 2020 to include Hunterdon County municipalities, schools, fire houses, houses of worship, or any other entity with a bell to toll.

How fitting a tribute it would be to have as many bells as possible tolling simultaneously at 11 am on Veterans’ Day 2020, honoring our Veterans in Hunterdon County.”

In 2018, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I, Hunterdon County joined governments, churches, American Legion halls, and many other entities around the nation in tolling the Historic Courthouse bell, as part of the national bells of peace initiative, at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month, which is recognized as the official time and date of the end of World War I.

Lanza noted, “The Freeholder Board, at the behest of former Freeholder John King, long a Veterans’ proponent, decided to continue the tolling of the Courthouse bell annually, an event we have designated ‘Bells for Veterans,’ on Veterans’ Day, November 11th, as a recognition for the service of our Veterans and for those currently serving.”

The bell is tolled twenty-one times in recognition of the highest honor accorded to those in the military whose lives are lost in the service of the nation, the twenty-one-gun salute.

“Many Hunterdon County residents have served heroically in the military throughout our Country’s history to protect the liberty we all enjoy, often making the ultimate sacrifice,” the Freeholder continued.

“Former Freeholder King’s resolution approved last year for the annual bell toll is a pledge to never forget the lives that were lost, and the selfless sacrifices made by our Veterans.

Now, I hope we can extend that recognition throughout the County in 2020. I believe it continues to be important to express our thanks to all who have served, and continue to serve, for protecting our way of life,” Lanza concluded.

To hear Hunterdon County’s 2019 Bells For Veterans on November 11th, at the Historic Courthouse, click the link below or copy and paste the address into your internet browser:

<https://www.facebook.com/HunterdonCountyNJ/videos/591485588273216/>