



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073  
(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## NEWS RELEASE



**Date:** November 4, 2024

**Contact:** Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcountyca.gov

### COUNTY BUILDING ILLUMINATION TO RECOGNIZE VETERANS

Ahead of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday, the County of Santa Cruz is pleased to join counties across the U.S. to commemorate Operation Green Light, recognizing veterans across the country who are reintegrating back into their communities.

As part of Operation Green Light, the County will illuminate the Santa Cruz Governmental Building, at 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, in green light for the week of Nov. 4-11. The County is joining hundreds of counties throughout the U.S. illuminating their buildings to honor veterans.

“Operation Green Light lets our service members know we recognize and welcome them,” Supervisor Zach Friend said. “Each of them made contributions and sacrifices to serve our country, and many of them have a journey back that is much longer and more difficult than just a flight home. We are grateful for their service.”

Spearheaded by NACo and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, Operation Green Light is now in its third year, with more than 300 counties participating last year. More than 8,500 veterans live in Santa Cruz County, and veterans account for 7 percent of the U.S. population.

Veterans often face significant challenges once they return home. With thousands of veteran suicides each year, veterans are at higher risk of suicide than the general population, and the problem is growing. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ top clinical priority is preventing veteran suicide.

Locally, veterans’ services are available through the Santa Cruz County Veterans Services Office, 842 Front St., Santa Cruz. For more on Operation Green Light, visit <https://www.naco.org/program/operation-green-light-veterans>.