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KENT COUNTY NEWS RELEASE  
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 23, 2015

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**New Office Opening for Kent County  
Veterans Services**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – The Kent County Board of Commissioners and Administrator’s Office are pleased to announce the dedication ceremony and open house on March 26, 2015, for the Kent County Veterans Services new location. Veterans Services will be provided at 836 Fuller NE, located on just north of I-196 in Grand Rapids, starting March 27.

Formerly the Kent County Department of Veterans Affairs, **Veterans Services** (KCVS) is looking to reach thousands of veterans and their families in Kent County who may not know they are eligible for benefits. “Funding for the revamped, renamed and relocated office came from the County’s Capital Improvement Program,” says Dan Koorndyk, Chair of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. “Absolutely no millage dollars were used for these renovations. This new site offers an exceptional location for our veterans to attain services they’ve earned in a far more comfortable environment.”

The new location offers on-site parking, including handicap spaces steps from the main entry, and a more visible location, with more square footage; the cost to renovate the facility was about \$90,000. It is situated along a bus line, and in a location that will be easy for our veterans to find.

Kent County voters approved a millage in November to fund expanding services for veterans. The millage generates slightly over \$1 million for increased outreach and emergency services, and allows the department to more than double the hours that staff work on federal claims assistance. KCVS helps County veterans and their dependents find veteran-related benefits, including claims for Federal benefits, State benefits, (administering the Michigan Veterans’ Trust Fund), and County benefits (Soldier’s & Sailor’s Relief Fund and burials). Since the Department’s creation, it has helped secure over \$15.5 million for local disabled veterans.

**MEDIA MEMBERS:** *You are invited to the Dedication Ceremony on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. The general public is invited to tour the office from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

*If you would like to get photos or video of the building shortly before the ceremony of immediately after, contact Kent County’s Community Liaison and Communications Director Lisa LaPlante at 616.632.7182 to arrange a tour.*

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