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Veterans Day, a national day when Americans unite and honor all those who've served in our nation's armed forces.

The day is often marked by events paying tribute to these veterans, and is a time when many restaurants and retailers offer discounts or free meals to those who've answered our nation's call.

The below is a list of some of the local events throughout Cumberland County and around the U.S. Army War College where veterans can go and participate in the day's tributes to their service.

The list include some of the many restaurants and retailors who are extending discounts and free meals to our veteran community.

Note: Not all franchise locations participate in their national chain's Veterans Day programs. Be sure to contact your nearest establishment, via phone or Web, to make sure they are participating.

Keep in mind most businesses require proof of military service, which can include a VA Universal Access Card, military ID, DD-214, VSO card (groups like the VFW, DAV, AmVets, MOAA, FRA and The American Legion); some businesses will accept a picture of the veteran in uniform.

Friday, November 11, 2016:

Carlisle — VFW Post 477 will hold a Veterans Day event at 2104 W. Trindle Road, Carlisle, beginning at Noon. A light lunch will be provided for veterans preceded by indoors posting of the colors by the Cumberland County Honor Guard. There will be a guest speaker from the U. S. Army War College with a presentation of a Veterans' Tribute Plaque to the Post. Contact is Rick Olson, Quartermaster, at 329-6055.

Carlisle - The Joint Veterans Council of Carlisle will conduct the Annual Veterans Day ceremony in the

2nd Floor Courtroom of the Old Courthouse commencing at 10:30 A.M. A special unveiling and dedication of a memorial dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients of Cumberland County will be conducted in Veterans' Memorial Courtyard immediately following the indoor ceremony. The monument is the Eagle Scout project of Matt Kunkle. The Cumberland County Honor Guard is providing the firing squad and bugler. The guest speaker will be R. J. Harris, WHP 580 Radio. Contact is Jim Washington at 226-1966.

Mechanicsburg — Lower Allen VFW Post 7530 will hold a Veterans Day Ceremony beginning at 11:00 A.M. at the Post, 4545 Westport Drive, Mechanicsburg. The guest speakers are Brian Spagnoletti and Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Doyle. Contact Brian Spagnoletti at 460-2622.

Mechanicsburg- Mechanicsburg Area Veterans Council (American Legion Post 109 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6704) will conduct Veterans Day ceremonies at the GAR Monument in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery at the corner of Frederick and Marble Streets beginning at 11:00 A.M. In the event of adverse weather, the ceremony will be at American Legion Post 109. The guest speaker will be U. S. Army Sergeant Major Jamie M. Lethiecq. Contact is Paul ICreiner, Jr., at 579-4560.

Newville- The Newville Joint Veterans Council will conduct a Veterans Day service honoring all veterans by placing flowers at the Memorial located at the fountain and the playing of TAPS. Hometown Heroes Banners will be given to family members. The service will begin at 11:00 A.M. In the event of adverse weather, the service will be held at the VFW, West Main Street, Newville. The guest speaker will be Lonnie Frampton, Chief Warrant Officer 3. Contact is Patricia Reed at 776-7825.

2016 Veterans Day Free Meals and Discounts

Starting Nov. 10, 2016:

Red Lobster, Nov 10 -11, 2016. Free Appetizer or Dessert from a select list.

Golden Corral (5pm – 9pm): The 16th annual Golden Corral Military Appreciation Monday dinner is available to any person who has ever served in the United States Military.

Veterans Day - Nov. 11, 2016:

Applebee's. Free meal from special menu. Beverage and gratuity not included.

Baker's Square. Free breakfast from select menu.

BJs Restaurant and Brewhouse. Free entree, up to \$12.95 value. \$5 beers for Guests over the age of 21.

Bob Evans. Free select breakfast, lunch, and dinner items.

Bonanza. Free buffet for veterans and active duty members at participating locations.

Bonefish Grill. Free Bang Bang Shrimp.

Boston Market. Free Brownie or Cookie with any purchase for all veterans, service members, and their families. No ID required.

California Pizza Kitchen. Choose a pizza, full size salad, or pasta from the special Veterans Day Menu. Dine-in only.

Chipotle. Buy One Get One Free from 3pm-close on Nov. 11th, 2016, at all Chipotle locations in the U.S.

Cracker Barrel. Complimentary slice of Double Chocolate Fudge Coca-Cola® Cake.

CraftWorks Restaurants & Breweries. Complimentary craft beer to active and retired military personnel. Locations that are prohibited from providing a free craft beer will offer a free appetizer.

Denny's (5am - 12pm). Free Build Your Own Grand Slam® for all active, inactive, and retired military. Participating locations only.

Friendly's. Free breakfast, lunch, dinner from select menu. Participating locations.

IHOP. Free Red, White and Blue pancakes. Participating locations only. Please call ahead to verify participation.

Long Horn Steakhouse. Free appetizer or dessert (no purchase required, no restrictions). Additional 10% off for their guests.

Olive Garden. Free entrée from a special menu. Entrées are served with unlimited soup or house salad and garlic breadsticks.

Outback Steakhouse. Free Bloomin' Onion and a non-alcoholic beverage. Also receive 15% off your purchase from Nov. 12-Dec 31, 2015.

Red Lobster's will offer a free appetizer or dessert with a valid military ID on November 10th and 11th.

Red Robin. Free Red's Tavern Double and Bottomless Steak Fries.

Ruby Tuesday's. Free appetizer (up to \$10) at participating

Texas Roadhouse. Free meal from special menu. Includes sides and a soft drink, coffee, or tea.

T.G.I. Friday's. Free lunch for current military members and veterans from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Participating locations only.

Tap House Grill. Free meal for service members and veterans with proof of service.

Travel Centers of America. Free meal and beverage from select menu for military members. Dine-in only. At participating locations.

Village Inn. Free INN-credible V.I.B. breakfast. Call ahead to verify.

Freebies for Veterans Day

Free Car Wash: Visit GraceforVets.org for a list of participating car washes.

Free Hair Cut: Great Clips is offering a free hair cut for military and veterans. Non-veterans can get a coupon to give to a veteran.

Free Hair Cut: Sport Clips, free hair cut at participating locations

Free Night at a B&B: Free night's stay at a Bed & Breakfast on Veterans Day. See list of participating B&B's (these fill up fast!). Visit BandBsforVets.org

Free Kindle Book: Operation Money: A Financial Guide for Military Service Members and Families, by best-selling author, Jean Chatzky. Download

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Dell Military Discount. 10% off every day, 15% off from 11/5/2016 – 11/15/2016.

Home Depot 10% Military Discount. Some restrictions.

Lyft Credits: (new members only – up to \$50, where available). Use this link - https://www.lyft.com/invite/CASHCREDITS

Uber Credits: (new members only – up to \$20 in most cities). Use this link - https://www.uber.com/invite/uberCashCredits

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