

April is National County Government Month

Kentucky counties urged to promote services, programs and honor military

County government plays an important role in the life of your family and community, providing law enforcement, building bridges and roads, managing courts and jails, delivering essential health care and housing, keeping public records, offering public parks systems and overseeing many other programs.

But do your constituents know what your county does? When your taxpayers get their tax bills, do they understand the services they are paying for?

Kentucky counties are urged to join the more than 1,000 counties that will participate in raising the public's awareness and understanding of county roles and responsibilities during National County Government Month in April. During this nationwide celebration of county government, counties are encouraged to plan events which help raise the public's awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of counties. The theme for this year's celebration is "Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces and Their Families." It is an important and timely theme as more veterans, military service members and their families turn to their county government for services and help.

"The Kentucky Association of Counties is proud of our veterans and military service members as well as the programs and services our counties provide them," said KACo Executive Director/CEO Denny Nunnelley. "National County Government Month is a great opportunity for the public to salute our military heroes and take a closer look at the programs and services our counties have available."

Your county could host a variety of community outreach events and activities, including tours of county facilities, recognition ceremonies for county employees and volunteers, distribution of information about county programs and services, school visits and sponsoring student essay contests, meetings with business and community leaders, and adoption of resolutions.

Resolutions were passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Kentucky General Assembly as both adjourned their special session recently in recognition of National County Government Month. Sponsored by Rep. Steve Riggs and Sen. Jimmy Higdon, the similar resolutions noted that the Senate and House join "the National Association of Counties and the Kentucky Association of Counties and the more than 1,000 counties in the United States in celebrating April as National County Government Month. The Senate (and House) furthermore urges the citizens of each of the 120 counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to participate in activities hosted by their counties of residence in order to become more aware of the roles and responsibilities delegated to county governments."

The resolutions recognize county governments which "provide inestimable services for their citizens" and their "officials and employees work for the county not only for a living, but in a

majority of instances out of a sense of civic duty, and out of a desire to promote the prosperity, health, and well-being of the citizens of the county.”

For more information about National County Government Month, check the National Association of Counties’ web site at **www.naco.org/NCGM**.