



## PRESS RELEASE

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## RTA extends Vets Ride for Free Program *Benefits military veterans riding RTA commuter buses, Music City Star*

**NASHVILLE** – The Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee (RTA) Board of Directors has given approval for an extension of last year's Vets for the Holidays program so that military veterans can ride RTA commuter bus services and the Music City Star commuter train for free.

The program, which ran from November 1 to December 31, 2018, was a first for the RTA. It aimed to make public transportation services more accessible to military veterans, both as a gesture of appreciation and in recognition of the fact that access to transportation services is a critical resource for returning and disabled veterans as they connect to medical, employment, and support services while reintegrating to civilian life.

The popularity and appreciation for the program quickly became apparent to members of the RTA Board of Directors, which is largely comprised of City and County Mayors and other local elected officials from the 10 counties surrounding Nashville and participate in the RTA to provide commuter transportation services to their residents. The decision to extend the program into 2019 was given Wednesday morning at the RTA Executive Committee meeting.

"We believe our veterans deserve the very best for what they have done for our country. I am proud to be a part of a great organization such as RTA who recognizes these great men and women. I appreciate the fact that this service is being extended." said RTA Vice Chair and Wilson County Mayor Randall Hutto.

To qualify, participants need only show a valid form of military veteran identification to the RTA bus operator or Music City Star train conductor. Forms of identification that will be accepted are:

- DD Form 2 (Retired United States Uniformed Services Identification Card)
- Tennessee Driver's License or Identification Card with "Veteran" designation on front
- VA Health Benefits Identification Card
- DD214 form in lieu of a Veteran's identification card

For more information on the Vets for the Holidays program, contact RTA Customer Care at 615-862-5950 from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, or visit [www.rtarelayandride.org](http://www.rtarelayandride.org)

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