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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Vets Town Hall returns to Brattleboro Nov. 9

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Stories by veterans provide ‘an opportunity to educate
the community about military life’

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TEXT BODY:

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Vets Town Hall, a Vermont-based nonprofit that aims to
increase understanding between veterans and civilians, is once
again partnering with local organizations to host five events in
Brattleboro and other sites around the state in early November.

According to a news release, veterans of all eras “are
invited to tell their community about their experiences serving in
the military, and how those experiences affected them. Non-

12 veterans are encouraged to attend and listen. These events are
13 free and nonpolitical, and all perspectives are valued.”

14 The Brattleboro event will be held on Sunday, Nov. 9,
15 starting at 1 p.m., at American Legion Post 5, 32 Linden St.

16 This will be the third year that Brattleboro has hosted a
17 Vets Town Hall, Dr. Robert Tortolani told *The Commons*. “It’s an
18 opportunity to educate the community about military life.”

19 Tortolani, a longtime physician in Brattleboro who served
20 as an Army doctor in 1968 and 1969 in Vietnam, is one of the
21 organizers of the Nov. 9 event, along with local veterans Tristram
22 Johnson and Norman VanCor.

23 All three are participants in the long-running Tuesday
24 Morning Veterans Coffee Group at Post 5, where veterans swap
25 stories about their experiences in the military over coffee and
26 doughnuts. Tortolani said he sees the Vets Town Hall as a chance
27 for the wider community to hear those stories.

28 This year, Tortolani said, 10 veterans from the area will
29 be sharing their stories, starting at 1 p.m., followed by a potluck
30 at 3:30 p.m., where he hopes the conversations will continue.

31 “We had 50 people show up at last year’s event, and I’m
32 hoping this year will be our biggest one year,” he said.

33 Vets Town Halls were originated by journalist and author
34 Sebastian Junger (*War, Tribe*), who partnered with U.S. Rep. Seth
35 Moulton, D-Mass., who served as a Marine Corps infantry
36 captain in the Iraq War, on the first such event in Marblehead,
37 Massachusetts in 2015.

38 Vets Town Halls have taken place in Vermont since 2017,
39 first in Burlington, and later at different locations throughout the
40 state. From 2017 to 2024, 26 events have taken place in the state,
41 including the two previous sessions in Brattleboro.

42 This November, Vets Town Halls will also be held in
43 Montpelier, Bennington, Rutland, Colchester, St. Johnsbury, and
44 Charlotte.

45 For more information, visit vtvetstownhall.org or email
46 vermont@vetstownhall.org.

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