

**From:** Thiele, Aaron  
**To:** [Aaron Thiele](#)  
**Cc:** [Scott Hommel](#); [Alan Mikkelsen](#); [Andrea Travnicek](#); [Benjamin Cassidy](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Bernhardt](#); [David Mihalic](#); [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Elinor Renner](#); [Greg Sheehan](#); [Gregory Sheehan](#); [James Cason](#); [Jason Larrabee](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Rusty Roddy](#); [Scott Angelle](#); [Vincent Devito](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Todd Wynn](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Rees, Gareth](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Bi-Weekly 10/25/17 Reminder  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 24, 2017 6:57:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [Bi-Weekly Briefing 10-24-17.pptx](#)

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All,

Attached are the finalized slides for tomorrow's bi-weekly briefing.

On Tue, Oct 24, 2017 at 9:46 AM, Thiele, Aaron <[aaron\\_thiele@ios.doi.gov](mailto:aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Just a reminder that all slides are due by noon today. Thanks.

On Fri, Oct 20, 2017 at 11:11 AM, Thiele, Aaron <[aaron\\_thiele@ios.doi.gov](mailto:aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Hey Everyone,

This is just a reminder that we have a bi-weekly briefing next Wednesday. Slides are due to my on Tuesday at Noon. As always, if you are going to be unable to make the meeting, you are still responsible for the slides and coordinating arranging for someone to cover your portion during the meeting.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Aaron



# Bi-Weekly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke

September 27, 2017



# Agenda

1. Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. Water and Science
3. Policy, Management, and Budget
4. Land and Minerals Management
5. Insular Areas
6. Indian Affairs
7. Solicitor
8. Congressional and Legislative Affairs
9. External Affairs/  
Intergovernmental
10. Communications
11. White House Liaison
12. Scheduling and Advance



# Fish and Wildlife and Parks





# Fish and Wildlife and Parks



## Current Operations

- FWS
  - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge update
  - Enhancement finding for lions and elephants
  - Fever ticks in Texas
  - Event for hunting and fishing access for veterans, October 26
- NPS
  - Announcement of NPS seasonal fee structure at top parks, October 24
  - World Heritage nomination for Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in Ohio, late October/early November



# Fish and Wildlife and Parks



## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- FWS
  - Priority Endangered Species items
    - Eastern puma final delisting due to extinction, on or around November 9
    - Foscett speckled dace proposed delisting due to recovery, on or around November 10
    - Monito gecko proposed delisting due to recovery, on or around November 15
    - Panama City crayfish to publish by December 29
    - Black warrior waterdog to publish by January 4, 2018
- NPS
  - Ceremonial groundbreaking for Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, DC, November 2
  - Ceremonial groundbreaking World War I in Pershing Park in Washington, DC, November 9
  - Memorial Bridge event, between November 14 and 17
  - National Christmas Tree lighting, President's Park, November 30



# Fish and Wildlife and Parks



## Major Events and Travel

- Acting Assistant Secretary Jason Larrabee
  - Arlington Memorial Bridge tour, October 25
  - FERC interagency meeting for natural gas pipeline coordination/cooperation, November 1
- FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan
  - Travel to Texas national wildlife refuges to assess recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey, October 23-25
- Acting NPS Director Mike Reynolds
  - Regional superintendents meeting, Northeast Region, Philadelphia, October 25



# Water and Science



# Water and Science

## Current Operations

### Bureau of Reclamation

- Alan is working in the field on Indian Water Rights issues
- Status report due to District Court on Columbia River System Operations EIS by Oct. 30 in preparation for the status conference on Nov. 28

### U.S. Geological Survey

- Hurricane Responses-real time field measurements, reporting of water heights, storm sensors
- Announcements of new papers:
  - Salinity levels have decreased within the Colorado River Basin from 1986-2011
  - Radium levels are elevated in source groundwater from the Cambrian-Ordovician aquifer which underlies Upper Midwestern states (November release)



# Water and Science

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

### Bureau of Reclamation

- NOA Draft EIS/EIR – Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration & Fish Passage Project
- Navajo Generating Station

### U.S. Geological Survey

- Critical Minerals Report release, still pending
- Review of the list of future publications and projects is ongoing



# Water and Science

## Major Events and Travel

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- Alan Mikkelsen: Indian Water Rights Office Team Chair Meeting, San Diego, CA, Oct. 26
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Implementation Committee meeting, MIB, Oct. 31
- Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo: Taiwan Water Resources Agency 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of partnership, 10/26-11/1
- Austin: The Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee, Sacramento, CA, Nov. 13

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- Bat Week
- Alaska Mapping Executive Committee Meeting, Oct. 26, Anchorage, Andrea will co-chair
- Pecora 20 Symposium-partnership with NASA, Nov. 14, Sioux Falls, SD, Andrea will attend



# Policy, Management and Budget





# Policy, Management and Budget

## Current Operations

- FY 2017 Financial Audit
  - DOI has had clean and on-time audit for 20 years
  - Next step: Bureau Directors need to sign Management Representation Letters to be dated 11/14 but signature/delivery to PMB by 11/8
  - Due date for KPMG auditors and DOI IG to release FY17 audit is 11/15/17
- FY 2018 Budget
  - Continuing Resolution into December
- FY 2019 President's Budget
  - OMB Passback expected in late November
- Disasters
  - OMB datacall for FY17 emergency supplemental appropriations bill due today; both funding and legislative initiatives are on the table



# Policy, Management and Budget

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Grants management
  - Memo in process to explain grant approval process for balance of FY 18 and beyond
  - Asst. Secy's and bureau directors being asked to focus grants on Secretarial Top 10 Priorities
  - Departmental manual updates on grantmaking likely December 2017/January 2018
- DOI reorganization for the next 100 years
  - Low-cost reprogrammings in FY 17/18
  - Settle on the standard regions, then do related reprogramming
  - Awaiting broad OMB feedback in December
- Government Performance and Results Act revised strategic plan for DOI
  - Expecting OMB feedback in early December; second opportunity for us to revise the plan
  - Final plan due for public release on 1/20/18
  - Plan's metrics need to be tied to SES performance standards



# Policy, Management and Budget

## Major Events and Travel

- American Council on Technology-Industry Advisory Committee annual Executive Leadership Conference focusing on IT and management issues, Williamsburg VA, October 31
- Western Weed Coordinating Committee, Las Vegas NV, November 29



# Land and Minerals Management



# Land and Minerals Management

## BLM

### Current Operations

- NPR-A Lease Sale Notice of Availability
  - Federal Register Publication Oct 26
- Fires on BLM Lands
  - As many as 2.6m Acres burned according to incident commander reports
  - GPS Tracking indicates at least 1.7m acres burned
- Venting & Flaring Revision Rule in surnaming process
- Oct 23-24 Sage Grouse Task Force meeting

### 30-60 Day Outlook

- BLM will hold 8 Lease Sales throughout Dec
- December 6 BLM-AK will hold a lease sale for 900 tracts in the NPR-A. (b) (5)
- Energy Related RMPs
  - Eastern Interior
  - Carlsbad
- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
- Venting & Flaring Rule, compliance dates

# BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sales by Calendar Year

Calendar Year 2016	Lease Sale Revenue	Calendar Year 2017	Lease Sale Revenue
Alaska (12/14/16)	\$18,813,589.00	Wyoming (12/14/17)	
Eastern States (12/13/16)	\$1,717,313.00	Eastern States (12/14/17)	
Utah (12/13/16)	\$208,693.00	Utah (12/12/17)	
Montana (12/8/16)	\$69,119.00	Montana (12/12/17)	
Colorado (12/8/16)	\$1,591,471.00	Nevada (12/12/17)	
Wyoming (11/1/16)	\$9,401,203.00	New Mexico (12/7/17)	
Eastern States (9/20/16)	\$80,224.00	Colorado (12/7/17)	
Nevada (9/13/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		Alaska (12/6/17)	
New Mexico (9/1/16)	\$145,582,752.00	Wyoming (9/21/17)	\$38,916,885.00
Utah (8/16/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		Eastern States (9/21/17)	\$202,269.00
Colorado (8/11/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		Montana (9/12/17)	\$314,862.00
Wyoming (8/2/16)	\$3,631,957.00	Nevada (9/12/17)	\$39,120.00
Idaho (7/27/16)	\$367,575.00	Utah (9/12/17)	\$14,837.00
New Mexico (7/20/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		Colorado (9/7/17)	\$603,174.00
Montana (7/12/16)	\$27,880.00	New Mexico (9/7/17)	\$130,888,485.00
Eastern States (6/16/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		Wyoming (6/22/17)	\$2,720,899.00
Nevada (6/14/16)	\$31,028.00	Eastern States (6/22/17)	\$880.00
Utah (5/17/16)	\$16,396.00	Nevada (6/14/17)	\$38,560.00
Colorado (5/12/16)	\$5,222,673.00	Montana (6/13/17)	\$728,684.00
Montana (5/4/16)	\$117,734.00	Utah (6/13/17)	\$48,027.00
Wyoming (5/3/16)	\$5,761,288.00	New Mexico (6/8/17)	\$3,491,731.00
New Mexico (4/20/16)	\$51,521.00	Colorado (6/8/17)	\$1,349,909.00
Eastern States (3/17/16)	\$900.00	Eastern States (3/23/17)	\$5,119,502.00
Nevada (3/8/16)	\$0.00	Utah (3/23/17)	\$117,167.00
Utah (2/16/16)	\$314,150.00	Nevada (3/14/17)	\$131,245.00
Colorado (2/11/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		Colorado (3/9/17)	\$90,943.00
Wyoming (2/2/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		Wyoming (2/7/17)	\$129,297,839.00
Montana (1/20/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		New Mexico (1/25/17)	\$2,936,100.00
New Mexico (1/20/16) <i>Sale Canceled</i>		Montana (01/17/17) <i>Sale Cancelled</i>	
<b>Total Calendar Year 2016:</b>	<b>\$193,007,466.00</b>	<b>Total Calendar Year 2017:</b>	<b>\$317,051,118.00</b>

"Lease Sale Revenue " includes total bonus bids, first year-rentals, and fees.



# Land and Minerals Management

## OSMRE

### Current Operations

- IMCC State & Federal work group meeting Oct 30-31<sup>st</sup>
  - NEPA
  - Oversight & Federal Enforcement
- Tennessee Primacy
  - Currently takes TN 854 days to permit
  - State primacy would reduce permitting time to 18 months
  - Primacy could save DoI \$3m

### 30-60 Day Outlook

- State program amendments for approval (PA, WY, KY) remaining from past 8 years
- 4 Mine Plans for approval through Oct-Nov
- Stream Protection Rule – Rescission
  - Currently with OSMRE for surname



# Land and Minerals Management

## BOEM

### Current Operations

- GoM Lease Sale 250
  - Finalized Oct 23
  - Sent to Federal Register for Publication Oct 25
- 5 Year Plan draft proposed program decision expected to ASLM this week
- DoD/ DOI working group in the process of being created (Early Nov planned first meeting)

### 30-60 Day Outlook

- Next milestone in 5-year plan- Publishing draft proposed program (DPP)
  - Proposed publication of DPP Nov 17<sup>th</sup>
- NAS Workshop Nov 8 & 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Atlantic Offshore Renewable energy
  - Fisheries





# Land and Minerals Management

## BSEE

### Current Operations

- White House Guidance on government owned, leased, rented or chartered aircraft; Director flies space Available (should not affect BSEE operations)
- Oct 16 BSEE initiated a panel investigation into a leak of 7,950-9,350 barrels of oil off the coast of Venice, LA

### 30-60 Day Outlook

- Regulatory reform updates
  - BSEE has established teams to prepare Well Control Rule and Production Safety Systems Rule
  - Schedules have been developed and language is being drafted for the above rules.



# Land and Minerals Management

## Major Events and Travel

From October 25-27 Deputy Assistant Secretary, Casey Hammond will be in Utah to meet with BLM UT State and Vernal offices.

From October 24-27 BSEE Director Scott Angelle will be in the Gulf for meetings with industry groups.



# Insular Areas



# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Hurricane Response & Recovery – U.S. Virgin Islands

Interior sends team to Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

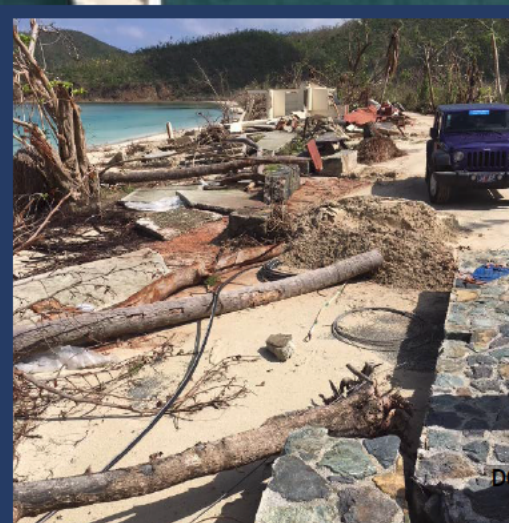
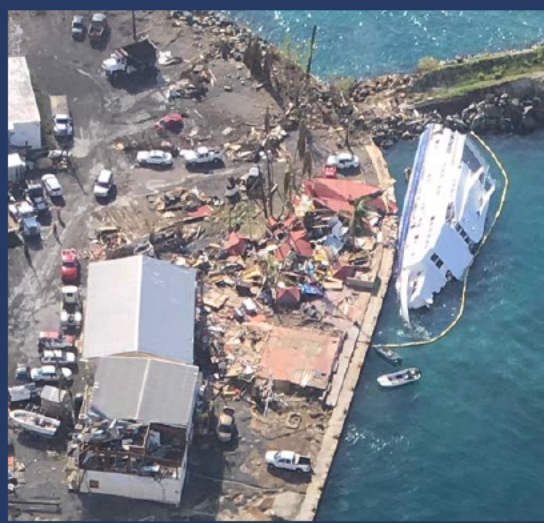






# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Hurricane Response & Recovery – U.S. Virgin Islands





# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Hurricane Response & Recovery – U.S. Virgin Islands

- The Senate is moving forward on a \$36.5 billion emergency aid bill for communities ravaged by hurricanes and wildfire.
  - The bill (H.R. 2266) has passed House would also:
    - (1) make territories eligible for FEMA Disaster Assistance Direct Loans,
    - (2) removes the \$5 million cap on such loans, and
    - (3) provide \$150 million in loans to a territory to pay the local share of costs related to a major disasters.
- OMB is considering a \$608.5 million Interior hurricane appropriations proposal that would --
  - (1) \$585 million in moneys for the V.I. to provide the required 25% local match for FEMA programs,
  - (2) \$20 million for the V.I. to contract for the administration of FEMA grants, and
  - (3) \$3.5 million for OIA monitoring of FEMA funding and contractors.
- USVI Governor will be in Washington DC next week. USVI has proposed \$5.5 billion recovery.
- Puerto Rico Governor Rosselló was at WH last week with POTUS.





# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Current Operations – Territories

MEETING ON MILITARY BUILDUP – OIA  
m and on CNMI. A key concern is

(b) (5)

GUAM – OIA met with a Guam Senator to discuss local legislation on potential tribal recognition for Chamorro natives, and other federal taxes that should be subject to remittance to Guam.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS – OIA met with CNMI Governor Torres to cover various issues. The Governor has asked DOD to put hold certain training activities proposed in CNMI and focus instead on “divert” infrastructure on Tinian.

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles have been discovered on coconut trees in Rota – threatens to devastate a food source and cultural icon, similar to Guam. OIA is processing a \$180K emergency grant to deal with the invasive species.



# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## Current Operations – Freely Associated States (FAS)

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE MEETING – OIA sponsored a meeting at DOI presenting the latest economic reports on the health of the Freely Associated States. The World Bank attended and presented as well. 100 people attended.

CYBER ATTACK on COMPACT TRUST FUND FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS -

- (b) (7)(A) [Redacted]

[Redacted]





# Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Anticipating a supplemental budget request for the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Domenech will travel to the Marshall Islands Dec. 3-8
- Domenech will meet staff in Hawaii Dec. 9.
- Domenech will meet with HI Governor and Pacific Command on Dec. 11.
- Domenech will speak at the Island Government Finance Officers Association Meeting in Hawaii Dec. 12-13.



# Indian Affairs



# Indian Affairs

## Current Operations

- Self Governance meetings this week
- BIE negotiated rulemaking
- Update of Land into Trust Regulations
  - Discussion at NCAI in Milwaukee last week
  - Upcoming Consultations
- Reviewing regulations and processes on titles and leases
  - 184 Mortgage effort with HUD
  - Short form leases for tribes engaged in commercial real estate development



# Indian Affairs

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Get charter school policy proposals from NIEA
  - Expansion of grades and facility sharing
  - Eliminate prohibitions on charter schools as school choice options for BIE schools
  - Allow BIE schools to contract with charter management organizations
- Trade and Commerce consultation complete, data collection until 10/30
- Prepare for TIBC



# Indian Affairs

## Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Testimony
  - PDAS Tahsuda testifying on HR 215 (10/25)
  - BIA Director Rice testifying on TLOA reauthorization (10/25)
- Keynote Addresses / Presentations
  - Self Governance (Tahsuda and Clarkson, 10/26)
  - Federal Bar Conference – Indian Law Section (Clarkson, 11/3)
  - Native American Contractors (Tahsuda, 11/7, tentative)
- Tribal Consultations
  - Land into Trust (11/14, 11/16, 11/29, additional dates being considered)
  - BIE Strategic Plan (11/15, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/14)



# Solicitor



# Office of the Solicitor

## Current Operations

- (b) (5) [REDACTED]
- (b) (5) [REDACTED]



# Office of the Solicitor

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- General Update





# Office of the Solicitor

## Grants

N/A



# Office of the Solicitor

## Major Events and Travel

“Regulatory Reform at DOI” Environmental Law Section of the California State Bar Association

- **Friday, October 20**



# Congressional and Legislative Affairs



# Congressional Affairs

## Current Operations

- Nominees
  - Burman (BOR), Combs (ASPMB), Nelson (Solicitor) & Balash (ASLM) – Marked Up and awaiting floor vote
  - (b) (5)
  - Tara Sweeney – AS-IA intent to nominate, OGE still reviewing legal
- Maintenance Fund Language – On the Hill, awaiting rollout event with WH
  - Current GOP Leads – Sen. Alexander & Rep. Simpson
- Floor Schedule:
  - Senate – Disaster Supplemental & CFPB CRA
  - House - H.R. 732 - Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017 / H.R. 469 - Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2017 / Consideration of the Senate Budget Resolution



# Congressional Affairs

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

### Hearings

- **(10/25)** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is holding a legislative hearing on S. 1870, Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act 2017; S. 1953, Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of 2010; and S. \_\_\_, Native Youth and Tribal Officer Protection Act.
  - **Witness - Bryan Rice, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs. (10/11)**
- **(10/25)** The House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee is set to host a legislative hearing on Rep. Don Young's H.R. 215, American Indian Empowerment Act of 2017.
  - **Witness - John Tahsuda, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.?**

### Legislative Agenda

- Supplemental Disaster Relief bills – Data call due to OMB 10/25
  - Categorical Exclusion for timber salvage
- Senate Interior Appropriations – Delayed another week



# Congressional Affairs

## Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Meetings for Secretary Zinke
  - Majority/Minority meetings with HNRC & HAC-I – 10/24
  - SAC-I Member Meeting hosted at DOI – TBD
  - Louisiana Coastal Tour – Sen. Cassidy – TBD
- Congressional Meetings for Dep. Sec. Bernhardt
  - Western Caucus – 11/14
- ANWR Hearing
  - Steve Wackowski, Alaska Advisor
- EITI Withdrawal Briefing



# External and Intergovernmental Affairs



# Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

## Current Operations

- Indiana County Commissioner Meeting
- Hunting and Fishing Access for Veterans Roundtable
- Timber Resources & Wildfire Roundtable
- Energy Summit





# Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- FACA Board Outreach to P3s and Sportsmen's Community
- Strengthen Governor and Department Cooperation
  - MA Governor meetings with BOEM and Fish and Wildlife
- Strengthen Local Government Cooperation
  - Nevada, North Carolina, Georgia, North Dakota



# Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs

## Major Events

- None

## Travel

- Tim Williams: Sage Grouse with WY Governor



# Communications



# Office of Communications

## Current Operations

- Oct. 26 -- Hunting & Fishing Month – Access for Veterans Event
- Oct. 24 -- Proposed Notice of Sale for Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 250
- Oct. 24 – NPS Fee Increase Notices
- Oct. 25 – Energy Burdens Report release
- Oct. 27 – Teddy Roosevelt’s Birthday
- Oct. 23-27 – Bat Week – Proclamation
- Oct. – Follow-up from NPS releases Work Environment Survey with Secretary in the Grand Canyon
- Oct./Nov. – Announce new FACA committees (sportsman and PPP)



# Office of Communications

## 30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- *Themes: hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation that drive home our Conservation Stewardship message*

### To Do:

- Refine strategic comms plan around the policy priorities, ensuring all are aligned with our Top 10 priorities
- Establish Communications rollout for Re-org.
- Working with WH on Critical Minerals report AND Infrastructure announcement and comms rollout.
- We stand ready to execute Monument Review outreach plan when WH is ready to release the report.



# White House Liaison



# White House Liaison

## Personnel:

- Schedule C
  - 34 of 70 onboard
  - 2 starting
  - 6 in process
- SES
  - 24 of 44 onboard
  - 4 starting
  - 1 in process
- PAS
  - 3 out of 17 onboard
  - 6 of 17 announced
  - 14 of 17 submitted



# Scheduling and Advance





# Scheduling and Advance

## In Town Events:

- Cabinet Meetings (11/1 & 11/15)
- NFWF Board of Directors Meeting (11/8)
- Reading of Names at Vietnam Veterans Memorial (11/8 or 11/9)
- World War II Memorial Veterans Day Celebration (11/11)
- Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony (11/11)
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Veterans Day Ceremony (11/11)

## Upcoming Trips

- Manassas National Battlefield Park (11/10)