



Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

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Special Groups of Veterans

Women Veterans:

Women veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as male veterans, but can also receive additional gender-specific services, including breast and pelvic examinations and other reproductive health care services.

VA provides preventive health care counseling, contraceptive services, menopause management, Pap smears and mammography. Referrals are made for services that VA is unable to provide. Women Veterans' Program Managers are available in a private setting at all VA facilities to help women veterans seeking treatment and benefits. For information, visit <http://www.va.gov/womenvet/>.

VA health care professionals provide counseling and treatment to help veterans overcome psychological issues resulting from sexual trauma that occurred while serving on active duty, or active for training for service was in the National Guard or reserves. Veterans who are not otherwise eligible for health care may still receive these services and do not need to enroll. Appropriate services are provided for any injury, illness or psychological resulting from such trauma.

Homeless Veterans:

VA provides comprehensive medical, psychological and rehabilitation treatment for eligible homeless veterans and conducts homeless outreach such as community-based "stand-downs" to help homeless veterans. Many VA benefits, including disability compensation, pension and education can help at-risk veterans avoid homelessness.

(next page)



Van Transportation...

- * *Don't drive* or are *physically incapable* of driving and need to get to the VA Medical Center or the Troy VA Clinic?
- * We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC and Clinic for *most morning* medical appointments.

For more details call 270-2760.

Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased Veteran

- Have a deceased loved one or friend who was a veteran and resided in Rensselaer County?
- Would you like them to be honored in a ceremony?
- If so, please call 270-2760 to request an application.

A message from our Director...

ALL VETERANS' EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE:

I want to urge all Vietnam veterans and veterans who served in areas where this was used to get tested NOW. There are many illnesses caused by Agent Orange, this raises concerns of health issues and damage caused by the use of Agent Orange.

If you're are not tested you are at risk of not knowing whether you could have symptoms of any one of the 11 diseases and ailments linked to Agent Orange. As we all know, the earlier a disease is detected, the better chances are of dealing with it.

When we got out of the service in our 20's we were feeling good, then as we have aged we have started to notice that this hurts and that hurts.

According to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, about 20 million gallons of herbicides were used in Vietnam between 1962 and 1972 to remove unwanted plant life and leaves which otherwise provided cover for enemy forces during the war.

Shortly following their military service in Asia, some veterans reported a variety of health problems and concerns which where attributed to exposure to Agent Orange.

Right now the VA offers compensation and benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange for the following 11 diseases: Chloracne; Hodgkin's Disease; Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma; Multiple Mycelia; Porphyries Catenae Tarda; Respiratory Cancers (Lung, Bronchus, Larynx, and Trachea); Soft-Tissue Sarcoma; Peripheral Neuropathy (Acute and Sub Acute); Prostate Cancer; Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2 Diabetes); and Chronic Lymphocyte Leukemia.

Also potential health conditions under review are Hypertension (High Blood Pressure) and Colon Cancer. Recently Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease, was added and more are being looked at each day.

Call our office TODAY so we can start the review process.

Bob

Special Groups of Veterans (cont'd from page 1)...

Other programs for homeless veterans include residential rehabilitation services at VA domiciliaries, therapeutic group homes, and contract residential care. For assistance, contact the nearest VA medical facility or visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/> to find contact information on VA homeless veteran coordinators in each state.

VA also provides grant and per diem funds to community agencies providing services to homeless veterans. The grant program pays up to 65 percent of the cost of construction, renovation, or acquisition of a building for use as a service center or transitional housing for homeless veterans, or foe the purchase of vans for transporting homeless veterans. The per diem provides funding for operational costs. Call 1-877-332-0334 or visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/>.

The Department of Labor provides employment and training services, as well as grants to community organizations that provide counseling, job search and placement assistance, remedial education and on-the-job training for homeless veterans. For information, call 202-693-4700 or visit <http://www.dol.gov/vet/welcome.html>.

Upcoming Events:

February 16...President's Day—**Office Closed**

February 27...Wounded Warriors Snowsports Event from 6 pm—10 pm at Michael's Banquet House, Latham. Tickets are \$30. For more info call STRIDE 518-598-1279 or kmoshier@stride.org

March 9...monthly Honor-A-Deceased Veteran ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 am **To Be Announced**