



# RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County  
Unified Family Services  
Veterans Service Agency  
1600 Seventh Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180  
Phone: (518) 270-2760  
FAX: (518) 270-2956

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**KATHLEEN M. JIMINO**  
Joseph W. Cybulski  
Commissioner

County Executive  
Robert M. Reiter  
Director

## Children of Vietnam Veterans Born with Spina Bifida or Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Born with Certain Birth Defects

### **SPINA BIFIDA—There are three basic eligibility requirements:**

1. The parent(s) of a spina bifida child-claimant must have performed active military, naval, or air service in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

2. The child must be the natural child of the Vietnam veteran, regardless of age or marital status, who was conceived after the date on which the veteran first entered the Republic of Vietnam. The term “natural child” means a biological child and excludes the notion of deriving entitlement from adoptive parents. Only a biological parent of an adopted child could make the child eligible.

3. Spina Bifida benefits are payable for all types of spina bifida except spina bifida occulta. Private physicians, government or private institution examination reports may establish the diagnosis.

### **Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Born with Certain Birth Defects:**

Under Public Law 106-419, children born to women Vietnam veterans may be eligible for a monthly monetary allowance if they suffer from certain birth defects. Children must have been conceived after the date on which the veteran first entered the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May 7, 1975. (Spina Bifida however, is covered under the VA’s Spina Bifida Program.) VA identifies the birth defects as those that are associated with the service of the mother in Vietnam and resulted in permanent physical or mental disability.

### **However, covered birth defects do not include conditions due to :**

- Familial disorders
- Birth-related injuries; or
- Fetal or neonatal infirmities with well-established causes.

**NOTE:** The law defines the term “child” as the natural child of a woman Vietnam veteran, regardless of age or marital status.

### **Covered Birth Defects (Include, but are not limited to.)**

1. Achondroplasia.
2. Cleft lip and cleft palate.
3. Congenital heart disease.
4. Congenital talipes equinovarus (club foot).
5. Esophageal & intestinal atresia.
6. Hallerman-Streiff syndrome.
7. Hip Dysplasia
8. Hypospadias megacolon.
9. Hydrocephalus due to aqueductal stenosis.
10. Hirschprung’s disease (congenital).
11. Imperforate anus.
12. Neural tube defects.
13. Poland syndrome.
14. Pyloric stenosis.
15. Syndactyly (fused digits).
16. Tracheoesophageal fistulia.
17. Undescended testicle.
18. Williams syndrome.

### **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

Hello all-

I have just returned from a training program in Washington DC and informed a potential linkage between HYPERTENSION (high blood pressure) and exposure to Agent Orange. It appears that HYPERTENSION will now be designated as a presumptive condition and I urge any and all who have been exposed to Agent Orange to call and re-file your claim.

As well, the County's Veteran's Office has received our "Report Card" of expenditures on Rensselaer County Veterans. While our veterans population has dropped to 12,487, there was a 15% increase on total expenditures to nearly \$39 million. The breakdown includes:

**Compensation and Pension:**  
\$13,898,000.00

**Education and Vocational Rehabilitation:** \$1,337,000.00

**Insurance:** \$939,000.00

**Medical Care:** \$22,604,000.00

As always we are here for our veterans and their family members.

Your in Patriotism,  
*BOB*

## Gold Star Parent Annuity

The Gold Star Parent Annuity which took effect on January 28, 2008, in which the State of New York recognizes the ultimate sacrifice, which the Gold Star parents have made to our state and country. This program administered by the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs, will authorize an annuity payment of up to \$500 per Gold Star parent. The annual annuity is capped at \$1000 per service

member.

To be eligible for this program, the Gold Star Parent (as defined by 10 USC 1126) must be a resident of New York State and have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The current income limit is \$20,800 for a single individual (add \$7,200 for each additional person in the household).

In order to receive the annuity each Gold Star Parent must submit a completed application to the Division of Veterans Affairs who will review it for completeness and to determine eligibility.

For more information or to request an application please call your local Veterans Service Agency at 270-2760.

## Upcoming Events:



*Call us by the 15th of the month and we will list your event.*

**April 14...**Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **William D. Mohan, US Army, WWII POW**

**May 12...**Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Edward J. Patrick, Jr., US Navy (Ret.), Vietnam**

**May 24...**East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 10:00 a.m.

**May 26...**Memorial Day— **OFFICE CLOSED**

**May 26...**Veterans of Lansingburgh 12th Annual Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 11:00 a.m.

**May 26...**Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade, kick off 11:00 a.m.

**May 26...**Nassau Memorial Day Parade, Kick off at 2:00 p.m.

**June 8...**Troy Flag Day Parade

**July 4...**Independence Day — **OFFICE CLOSED**

**September 7...**33rd Uncle Sam Birthday Parade, start time 1:00 p.m.



