



# RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County  
Unified Family Services  
Veterans Service Agency  
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Joseph W. Cybulski  
Commissioner

KATHLEEN M. JIMINO  
County Executive

Robert M. Reiter  
Director

## 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.



## WASHINGTON (March 13, 2009) - Following is an open letter to Veterans from the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki:

"My name is Ric Shinseki, and I am a Veteran. For me, serving as Secretary of Veterans Affairs is a noble calling. It provides me the opportunity to give back to those who served with and for me during my 38 years in uniform and those on whose shoulders we all stood as we grew up in the profession of arms.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs has a solemn responsibility to all of you, today and in the future, as more Veterans join our ranks and enroll to secure the benefits and services they have earned. I am fully committed to fulfilling President Obama's vision for transforming our department so that it will be well-positioned to perform this duty even better during the 21st Century. We welcome the assistance and advice of our Veterans Service Organizations, other government departments and agencies, Congress, and all VA stakeholders as we move forward, ethically and transparently, so that Veterans and citizens can understand our efforts.

"Creating that vision for transforming the VA into a 21st Century organization requires a comprehensive review of our department. We approach that review understanding that Veterans are central to everything VA does. We know that results count, that the department will be measured by what we do, not what we promise, and that our best days as an organization supporting Veterans are ahead of us. We will fulfill President Lincoln's charge to care for ". . . him, who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan . . ." by redesigning and reengineering ourselves for the future.

"Transforming any institution is supremely challenging; I know this from my own experience in leading large, proud, complex, and high-performing organizations through change. But the best organizations must be prepared to meet the challenging times, evolving technology and, most importantly, evolving needs of clients. Historically, organizations that are unwilling or unable to change soon find themselves irrelevant. You and your needs are not irrelevant.

"Veterans are our clients, and delivering the highest quality care and services in a timely, consistent and fair manner is a VA responsibility. I take that responsibility seriously and have charged all of the department's employees for their best efforts and support every day to meet our obligations to you. Our path forward is challenging, but the President and Congress support us. They have asked us to do this well-for you. Veterans are our sole reason for existence and our number one priority-bar none. I look forward to working together with all VA employees to transform our department into an organization that reflects the change and commitment our country expects and our Veterans deserve.

"Thank you, and God bless our military, our Veterans, and our Nation."

Signed: Eric K. Shinseki

## A Message From Our Director

GOT MONEY? Beware those who promise Free Government Money! In tough economic times the pitches for government grants are great, with many aimed at Veterans. If it seems too good to be true...it probably is. It's that plain and simple.

Or, let me put it this way: If someone walked up to you on the street and said, "I'm going to give you money, but you have to give me some money first," WOULD you believe them? Of course not.

So, don't believe them on the Internet. With tough economic times, the ads

for "Government Grants" of Government Money" or "\$27,000.00 free for the asking", can be found everywhere on the Web.

These are folks who will charge you for them to send you information that is usually worthless and / or outdated and / or completely bogus.

Want to know about REAL Grants? Only trust verified government web pages.

For example, the VA site ([www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)) will tell you about grants for adaptive housing or an adaptive auto-

mobile, should you qualify.

Unfortunately, there are those out there who would take advantage of others, even those who have given so much for their country. So please, do not allow yourself to fall victim to these predators who would take advantage of the needs of our veterans.

A special thanks to Larry Scott for providing some of the information for this article.

Yours in Patriotism,  
*BCB*

## Troy Boys & Girls Club Offers Free Membership to Military Children

In partnership with every armed service, (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard), Troy Boys & Girls Club is proud to support **MISSION: Youth Outreach**. This US Department of Defense and Boys & Girls Club of America sponsored initiative underwrites off-base Club membership dues and program fees for each child of re-

serve, guard or active duty personnel.

The Troy Boys & Girls Club was recently recognized with a Military Outreach Award by The Boys & Girls Club of America for providing quality youth programs to military dependent children in civilian communities. **MISSION: Youth Outreach** allows The Troy Boys & Girls Club to

show its support to military families by expanding the reach of its after school and summer programs that focus on personal development, the arts, education, recreation and health. For more information about **MISSION: Youth Outreach** or to find out how to enroll your child in the Troy program, please call The Troy Boys & Girls

## Upcoming Events:



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

**April 2...**NYS Employment For Women Veterans, The Canon Club @ Watervliet Arsenal, 5:30 pm, please RSVP at 465-5251 ext. 210

**April 13...**Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Brigadier General Leon E. Wait (Ret.), US Army**

**April 18...**Informational meeting at the Averill park American Legion from 1 pm— 3 pm

**April 18...** Tools for Caregivers, Bulmer Communications Center, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy from 8 am—2 pm (lunch included) to register call (518) 434-2160 or email [CapitalRegionCC@yahoo.com](mailto:CapitalRegionCC@yahoo.com). For more info or to register for Respite, call 270-2768.

**May 11...**Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m.

**May 23...**East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 10:00 a.m.

**May 25...**Memorial Day— **OFFICE CLOSED**

**May 25...**Veterans of Lansingburgh 13th Annual Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 11:00 a.m.

**May 25...**North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off time 1:30 p.m.

**July 3 ...** Independence Day Observed—**OFFICE CLOSED**

**July 4...**Independence Day