



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

Volume 5, Issue 3
APRIL/MAY 2010

Joseph W. Cybulski
Commissioner

KATHLEEN M. JIMINO
County Executive

Robert M. Reiter
Director

Receiving or Replacing Military Medals and/or Records

Van Transportation...

- * **Don't drive** 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



Troy Flag Day Parade

June 13, 2010 Annual

Rensselaer County
Veterans Service Agency
is looking for Veterans to
march with us in the
parade.

If you are interested
please call our office for
details at
(518) 270-2760.

Receiving or Replacing Military Medals:

Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the individual military services if requested by veterans or their next of kin. Request for replacement medal, decorations, and awards should be directed to the branch of military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army veterans, the National Personnel Records center (NPRC) verifies awards and forwards requests and verification to appropriate services.

Requests for replacement medals should be submitted on Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records," which may be obtained at your local VA office.

When requesting medals, type or clearly print the veteran's full name, include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number and provide the veteran's exact or approximate dates of military service. The request must contain the signature of the veteran or next of kin if the veteran is deceased. If available, include a copy of the discharge or separation document.

Receiving or Replacing Military Records:

If discharge or separation papers are lost, veterans or the next of kin of deceased veterans may obtain duplicate copies by writing the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Specify that a duplicate separation document is needed. The veteran's full name should be printed or typed so that it can be read clearly, but the request must also contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased. Include branch of service, service number or Social Security number and exact or approximate dates and years of service. Use Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records"

You may also request a copy of military records via the internet at www.archives.gov. If you choose this method, we strongly suggest that once the records are received by the veteran, that they register a copy with the local Veterans Service Agency.

NOTE from Larry Scott, VA Watchdog dot Org ... According to this report in *The New York Times*, three new diseases will be added to Agent Orange exposure presumptives for "boots on the ground" Vietnam veterans.

The VA will add Parkinson's, ischemic heart disease and hairy-cell leukemia to the list of diseases presumed to be caused by Agent Orange exposure.

The new policy will apply to some 2.1 million veterans who set foot in Vietnam during the war, including those who came after the military stopped using Agent Orange in 1970. It will not apply to sailors on deep-water ships, though the department plans to study the effects of Agent Orange on the Navy.

The veterans department already recognizes more than a dozen conditions as being presumptively connected to Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam, including [Hodgkin's disease](#), [prostate cancer](#) and [Type 2 diabetes](#).

But for diseases not on that list, veterans are required to provide evidence directly relating their service in Vietnam to their illness, a requirement that often leads to application rejections and prolonged appeals.

Veterans department officials estimate that about 200,000 veterans might seek benefits under the proposed change in policy. But they said they could not estimate the cost of the change until the policy underwent public review and was published in final form, which could take several months.

This is a victory for groups like Vietnam Veterans of America, which has been pushing the department to add Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart conditions and [hypertension](#) to the list of diseases presumptively linked to Agent Orange.

But the new policy is also likely to prompt debate over how much responsibility the federal government should take in compensating and caring for aging veterans who are exhibiting a growing list of physical and psychological problems.

The most common of the three illnesses, ischemic heart disease, restricts blood flow to the heart, causing irregular heartbeats and deterioration of the heart muscle.

Some doctors and researchers say the expansion of Agent Orange benefits has been based on weak or inconclusive science, given the lack of studies on Vietnam veterans. Those skeptics argue that diseases like prostate cancer or Type-2 [diabetes](#) are just as likely the result of aging, lifestyle or genetic predisposition as exposure to Agent Orange.

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT

New York National Guard Family Readiness Council, Inc.
WWW.NYFRC-INC.org

3rd Annual HOMETOWN HEROES RUN
5K Run & Walk

Fun run for the kids-8:45 am FREE
Saturday, June 12, 2010 9:15 am

The Crossing of Colonie 580 Albany Shaker Road

\$20 Early Registration \$25 After June 10 up to Race Day

Online Registration WWW.AREEP.com

The Italian Community Center

is hosting a banquet to
honor veterans

6 p.m. on May 15th.

Contact Laurie Kelley at
2743702, extension 17, for
details & tickets by April
30th.

Hope to see you there.

Upcoming Events:



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

- May 10...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Martin Pechenik, US Army, WWII**
- May 30...City of Rensselaer Memorial Day parade, step-off at 2 p.m.
- May 31...Memorial Day— **OFFICE CLOSED**
- May 31...Veterans of Lansingburgh Annual Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 11:00 a.m.
- May 31...Nassau Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 2:00 p.m.
- June 13...Troy Flag Day Parade, kick off at 1 p.m.
- June 14...Honor-a-Deceased Veterans ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Seymour Fischer, US Army, WWII**