



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

New York State Oral History Program:

New Program—Old Virtues

Established by Governor Pataki on Veterans Day, 2000, the New York State Veteran History Program involves professional military historians using the latest digital technology to preserve the story of New York's Veterans—in their own words—now and for all generations to come.

The program is concentrating on the state's sizable World War II Veteran community; however, they are also collecting the experiences of veterans of all periods and services.

The people within the Division of Military and Naval Affairs are proud to be part of this Gubernatorial initiative, providing the historical and administrative support. Funding and technology assistance are provided by the Governor's Office for Technology. Working together with the Division of Veteran Affairs, these state agencies are dedicated to realizing the Governor's intent to save the thoughts and experiences of the state's veterans, not just because these are important parts of the state and national history, but also because they are valuable lessons in the values that made New York the Empire State.

Each interview conducted enters an individual veteran's experiences into the permanent public memory of the state and nation, and builds a collection of irreplaceable value that scholars, students, and family members will wish to use for years without end.

Using the inherent advantages of the digital technology involved to go further than just gathering and storing these memories and prepare visual presentations from the basic materials that brings the veteran's stories directly into the schools and homes of their fellow New Yorkers.

How the Program Works

Each veteran who desires to participate are asked, as a first step, to complete a veterans questionnaire. The information entered on this form not only helps the historians prepare for the interview— it also helps you get ready to be interviewed. The modern version of a form in use since the Civil War, it becomes part of the permanent record along with the actual interview itself. For more information on the questionnaire, please see below.

The completed questionnaire, when received, is the cue to call you and arrange for an interview.

Depending on your preferences and availability, and the availability of the historians you will be offered one of four choices:

- A video interview at their facilities in the Capital District (available Monday thru Fridays).
- A video interview at a veterans or military installation or event nearer to your home (dates vary).
- An audio interview, by telephone (available Mondays thru Fridays).
- A self-interview packet which includes instructions on how you or a friend or family member can conduct an interview.

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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 any morning medical appointments.

For more details call 270-2760

NOTE:

IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OUR VANS WILL BE OFF-ROAD FROM DECEMBER 24 THROUGH December 28 SERVICE WILL RESUME ON Monday, December 31.



Get more from your Medicare

1-800-846-5553
TTY/TDD 1-877-247-6272

WellCare is a health plan with a Medicare contract

New York State Oral History continued from page 1:

All tapes are stored in a digital format. The use of digital formats ensures that the veteran’s recollections and experiences will be preserved for generations to come.

All video and audio media (regardless of method of collection) will be catalogued, summarized, transcribed whenever feasible, and placed into protective storage. Catalogue information will be made as widely available as possible, and the interviews made available to the general and academic community, subject to any limitations placed on their use by the individual veteran.

When specifically authorized by each veteran, copies or portions of the interviews may be shared with other research institutions or school and university programs.

Contact Information

Phone: You can call **518-581-5116** and provide the operator with your name, address and phone number information to register for the New York State Veteran Oral History Program. You will be sent a veteran’s questionnaire to complete. In the event all operators are busy you will be able to leave a voice message for a return call.

Email: Please email int-Historians@ng.army.mil for more information.

If you would like to spread some holiday cheer and the spirit of Christmas this holiday season, please consider making a donation to one of the more than 300 nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our troops and their families listed on the “America Supports You” website, at www.americasupportsyounil

Other organizations that offer means of showing your support for our troops or assist wounded service members and their families include:

<http://www.usocares.org/>

<http://www.4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers>

<http://www.redcross.org>

For individuals without computer access, please contact your local military installation, the local National Guard or military reserve unit, they may offer the best alternative.



A Message from our Director:

I believe it is time for all of us to learn some prevention in regards to what seems to be a current chronic problem amongst our veteran community—suicide. Lately in the news there has been information about Veterans committing suicide at a rate of over 120 per week. This is a fact, of the ones reported. In the past month, our office alone has had two veteran clients commit suicide.

Did you know that male veterans are twice as likely as civilians to commit suicide. 13.5% of all Americans report a history of suicide ideation or suicidal thinking, 4.6% report attempts, 3.9% have made plans, in 2003, 31,484 suicide deaths (reported) vs. 17,732 homicide deaths, with the majority involving firearms.

Look for the warning signs: *threatening to hurt or kill ones self* taking or writing about death or dying *hopelessness* rage, anger or seeking revenge* acting reckless or doing risky activities* feeling trapped—like there is no way out* increasing alcohol or drug abuse* withdrawing from friends and family* anxiety, agitation, unable to sleep or sleeping all the time* dramatic changes in mood* no reason or purpose for living.

If you see any of the above, please refer the individual for mental health treatment.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff at Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency!

2008 VA Compensation Rates for Single Veterans		
10%	=	\$117
20%	=	\$230
30%	=	\$356
40%	=	\$512
50%	=	\$728
60%	=	\$921
70%	=	\$1,161
80%	=	\$1,349
90%	=	\$1,517
100%	=	\$2,527

Upcoming Events:



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

December 7...Pearl Harbor remembered

December 10...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Richard O. Gross, USAF**

December 25...Christmas—**Office Closed**

December 24 – December 28...**no van transportation** (see front page)

December 31... Van schedule resumes

January 1...Happy New Year– **Office Closed**

January 14...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Delford R. Hilton, US Army, Korea**

January 21...Martin Luther King Jr. Day—**Office Closed**

