



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
Veterans Service Agency
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Volume 3, Issue 12
DECEMBER, 2008

Joseph W. Cybulski
Commissioner

KATHLEEN M. JIMINO
County Executive

Robert M. Reiter
Director

Saying Goodbye to Congressman McNulty

On behalf of the Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Committee, I hereby express our immeasurable gratitude, honor and respect to you, the Honorable Michael R. McNulty, for all of your unselfish years of service that you have given to the veteran community at large.

Your undying support of our nation's military men and women, as well as their families has always been evident, whether it was attending a medal presentation, a monthly Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony or a loved one's final service.

Over the years you have touched, helped and inspired a great number of individuals. So please understand that when we say this goodbye to you as our representative, it is with a great deal of respect and pride but also with many heavy hearts.

We know that our *Good Bye* to you is only as our Congressman. We look forward to being friends for many years to come.

Yours in Patriotism,

Robert M. Reiter

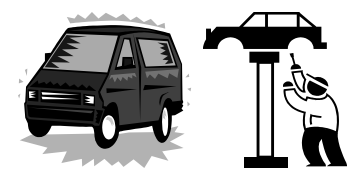
Van Transportation...

- * **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

NOTE:

IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OUR VANS WILL BE OFF-ROAD FROM DECEMBER 22 THROUGH JANUARY 2. SERVICE WILL RESUME ON Monday, January 5, 2009.



PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

December 7, 1941

67 Years

December 7, 2008

Always Remembered

Important Notice—New Law Concerning Eligibility for Government Headstones and Markers

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death. The VA may also provide a headstone or marker for the graves that are marked with a private headstone or marker, for veterans that die on or after November 1, 1990.

For eligible veterans that die on or after Nov. 1, 1990, VA may also provide a headstone or marker for graves that are already marked with a private headstone or marker. When the grave is already marked, applicants will have the option to apply for either a traditional headstone or marker, or the new device (available spring 2009).

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veterans' cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.

ALS as a Presumptive Compensable Illness

Veterans with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may receive badly-needed support for themselves and their families after the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that ALS will become a presumptively compensable illness for all veterans with 90 days or more of continuous active service in the military.

ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease, is a neuromuscular disease that affects about 20,000 to 30,000 people of all races and ethnicities in the United States, is often relentlessly progressive, and is almost always fatal.

ALS causes degeneration of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that leads to muscle weakness, muscle atrophy, and spontaneous muscle activity. Currently, the cause of ALS is unknown, and there is no effective treatment.

The new interim final regulation applies to all applications for benefits received by VA on or after September 23, 2008, or that are pending before VA, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on that date.

VA will work to identify and contact veterans with ALS, including those whose claims for ALS were previously denied, through direct mailings and other outreach programs.

Please call Rensselaer County Veterans at 270-2760 if this applies to you or someone you know, and we will send you the necessary paperwork.

RENSELAER COUNTY HONOR-A-DECEASED VETERAN COMMITTEE

•HAVE A DECEASED LOVED ONE OR FRIEND WHO WAS A VETERAN ?

•WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE THEM HONORED IN A CEREMONY ?

•IF SO, PLEASE INQUIRE HERE OR CALL 270-2760

REQUIREMENTS:

- MUST BE DISCHARGED UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE;
- MUST BE DECEASED AT LEAST ONE YEAR;
- MUST HAVE RESIDED IN RENSELAER COUNTY AT SOME POINT DURING THEIR LIFETIME;
- MAY ONLY BE HONORED ONCE.

A Message from our Director:

Happy Holidays from all of us here at Rensselaer Counties Veterans Service Agency. We hope that each and everyone has a happy and healthy holiday season. On December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day) it will be Ron Garzia's last day as part of our staff. Ron is retiring and will soon be in the sunshine state of Florida. We wish him well and a long and healthy retirement. With Ron gone we will be down a driver for two months, so please bare with us thru out this changing time.

Did you know that there are 23.6 million veterans in the United States? That 1.8 million are female, 16% percent are Gulf War veterans, 9.3 million veterans are 65 and older and at the other end of the age spectrum 1.9 million are younger then 35? Most veterans live in 5 states, California 2.1 million, Florida 1.7 million, Texas 1.7 million, New York 1.1 million and Pennsylvania 1.1 million. 25 percent of veterans 25 and older have at least a bachelors degree, and 90 percent have a high school diploma or higher.

Did you know that the rate of veterans who voted in the presidential election was SEVENTY-five PERCENT, COMPARED TO 63 PERCENT OF NONVETERANS?

This is a list of veterans who are living: World War II: 2,306,000; Korean War: 2,307,000; Vietnam War: 7,125,000; and Desert Shield/Storm: 2,269,00.

Happy Holidays,

Bob, Lonnie and Dan

Upcoming Events:

December 7...Pearl Harbor remembered

December 8...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Frank J. Molloy, Jr., Army, WWII**

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

December 22 – January 2...**no van transportation** (see front page)

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

January 5... Van schedule resumes

January 12...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

January 19...Martin Luther King Jr. Day—**Office Closed**



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

