



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
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VETERANS PREFERENCE FOR FEDERAL JOBS

Since the time of the Civil War, veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces have been given some degree of preference in appointments to federal jobs. Veterans' preference in its present form comes from the Veterans' preference Act of 1944, as amended, and now codified in Title 5, United States Code. By law, veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during certain specified time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over others when hiring from competitive lists of eligible candidates, and also in retention during a reduction in force (RIF).

To receive preference, a veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces under honorable conditions (honorable or general discharge). Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased veterans who died in service; spouses of service-connected disabled veterans; and mothers of veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. For each of these preferences, there are specific criteria that must be met in order to be eligible to receive the veterans' preference.

Recent changes in Title 5 clarify veterans' preference eligibility criteria for National Guard and Reserve service members. Veterans eligible for preference include National Guard and Reserve service members who served on active duty as defined by Title 38 at any time in the armed forces for a period of more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or by law as the last date of OIF. The National Guard and Reserve service members must have been discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions.

Another recent change involves veterans who earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for service in OEF. Under Title 5, service on active duty in the armed forces during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized also qualifies for veterans' preference.

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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 most morning medical appointments.

For more details call 270-2760



MARCHERS WANTED

For the Troy Flag Day Parade.
More info please call Rensselaer County Veterans at 270-2760

A Message From Our Director

Hello All-

Here we are into summer and enjoying all the heat. Don't forget the TROY FLAG DAY PARADE, meet at the upper parking lot at the County Office Building at 11:00 am, Sunday June 8th, 2008.

On a few occasions lately I have been asked to handle emergency room bills for Non VA care that veterans' receive. To be eligible for emergency care at non-VA facilities, this is what MUST

happen; the nearest VA health care facility has to be notified within 72 hours, the condition treated was of such nature that a delay in seeking treatment would have been hazardous to your health, you have NO coverage under a health plan, you are enrolled and getting care at your local VA, or being treated for a service-connected disability and there was an emergency. Please call our office for more information.

Last month I talked about the new

Hypertension (high blood pressure) claims based on herbicide exposure (Agent Orange). If you know of any family member who lost a Vietnam Veteran to any heart problem, please have them make contact with our office on the issue of benefits. Widows of veterans' who have passed from a service connection disability are entitled to benefits of \$1,100 and more a month, along with health insurance for them.

Yours in Patriotism,

Bob

Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs (cont'd from Page 1)

Any Armed Forces Expeditionary medal or campaign badge qualifies for preference. Medal holders must have served continuously for 24 months or the full period call or ordered to active duty. As of December 2005, veterans who received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal are entitled to veterans' preference if otherwise eligible. For additional information, visit the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.asp#2>.

Veterans' preference does not require an agency to use any particular appointment process. Agencies can pick candidates from a number of different special hiring authorities or through a variety of different sources. For example, the agency can reinstate a former federal employee, transfer someone from another agency, reassign someone from within the agency, make a selection under merit promotion procedures or through open, competitive exams, or appoint someone noncompetitively under special authority such as a Veterans Readjustment Appointment or special authority for 30 percent of more disabled veterans. The decision on which hiring authority the agency desires to use rests solely with the agency.

When applying for federal jobs, eligible veterans should claim preference on their application or resume. Veterans should apply for a federal job by contacting the personnel office at the agency in which they wish to work. For more information, visit <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/> for job openings or help creating a federal resume.

Veterans' Employment Act: When an agency accepts applications from outside its own workforce, the Veterans' Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 allows preference eligible candidates or veterans to compete for these vacancies under merit promotion procedures. Veterans who are selected are given career or career-conditional appointments. Veterans are those who have been separated under honorable conditions from the U.S. armed forces with three or more years of continuous active service.

Upcoming Events:



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

June 8...Troy Flag Day Parade, kick off at 1:00 p.m.

June 9...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Charles E. Thompson, US Army, WWII**

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

July 14...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **John E. Thompson, US Navy (Ret.), Vietnam Era**

August 11...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **George A. Randall III, US Army, WWII**


