



# 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

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Director

## Relaxation of Priority Group 8 Enrollment Restrictions

The Department of Veterans Affairs has received increased funding through Public Law 110-329 to alleviate some of the restrictions on Priority Group 8 enrollment. The adjustment applies to veterans who were not allowed to enroll in the VA health care system in the past because their income fell above the VA's means test threshold (MTT). This new provision stipulates that the veteran's income cannot fall beyond the limits of 10 percent and goes into effect June 2009.

Veterans who apply for enrollment starting January 1, 2009, but before June 2009 and whose income surpasses the MTT or geographic means test (GMTT) by 10 percent will not be enrolled in the VA health care system. However, the VA will make a re-determination after the effective date. Veterans whose applications were submitted prior to January 1, 2009, and were disapproved due to the MTT and GMTT will have to be re-submitted in order to be considered for the new provision.

### Van Transportation...

- \* *Don't drive or are physically incapable of driving due to medical reasons* and need to get to the VA Medical Center or the Troy VA Clinic?
- \* We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the Albany VAMC and Troy Clinic for *most* morning medical appointments.

For more details call 270-2760.



## American Legion Riders Melvin Roads Post 1231

The American Legion Riders Chapter 1231 of the Melvin Roads Post, East Greenbush, NY, is hosting a very special concert to raise money for the **children of fallen or seriously wounded soldiers who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.....**

<b>WHEN:</b>	<b>Sunday, March 29, 2009</b>
<b>WHERE:</b>	<b>The "Troy Savings Bank Music Hall"</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>2:00 pm to 4:00 pm</b>
<b>OPENING ACT:</b>	<b>Don Ackerman</b>
<b>FEATURED BAND:</b>	<b>The "Yankee Doodle Band"</b>
<b>DONATION:</b>	<b>\$12.00 per ticket</b>

Tickets may be purchase from:

**Troy Savings Bank Music Hall Ticket Sales 518 273-0038**

All proceeds to go: 50% to the National American Legion Legacy Fund (scholarship) and 50% to the Melvin Roads Post 1231 ALR Hero Fund.

## *A Message from County Executive Jimino:*

I hope you find the information contained in the monthly Veterans Newsletters helpful. We in Rensselaer County take a great deal of pride in the programs and services available to help support our Veterans who have through their service defended the freedoms we hold so dear.

To ensure that you are receiving all of the benefits you are entitled to through your service to our nation or the service of your spouse I urge you to check in with our Veterans Service Agency from time to time or join us at one of our Veterans Information Nights that are currently being held throughout the County.

Sincerely,  
*Kathleen M. Jimino*  
Kathy Jimino

### **FREE TAX PREP.....**

**The Diver Memorial Library at 136 Main St. in Schaghticoke will offer free tax preparation through the help of AARP. Qualified volunteers will be at the library from 10 am to 2 pm on Fri., Feb. 6th, March 6th, and April 3rd to prepare and electronically file tax returns. This service is geared towards taxpayers with middle and low incomes with special attention to those age 60 and older. An appointment can be made by calling 753-4344.**

## **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008. This Act extends the period of enhanced health care eligibility provided to a veteran who served in a theater of combat operation after November 11, 1998 (commonly referred to as combat veterans or OEF/OIF veterans) as follows:

- **Currently enrolled veterans and new enrollees who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003** are eligible for the enhanced benefits, for 5 years post discharge.
- **Veterans discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, who apply for enrollment on or after January 28, 2008**, are eligible for the enhanced benefit until January 27, 2011.

As before, veterans included in this authority may be enrolled in Priority Group 6, if not eligible for a higher Priority Group placement, and may be charged co-pays for medication and/or treatment of conditions that are clearly unrelated to their combat service (common cold, broken bone, etc.). These veterans, while not required to disclose income, may do so to determine their eligibility for a higher priority status, beneficiary travel benefits and exemption of co-pays for care unrelated to their military service.

There is no change to VA's policy of continuing enrollment of veterans who enroll with VA under this "Combat Veteran" authority after their enhanced eligibility period ends. At the end of the enhanced eligibility period, VA will reassess the veteran's information and make a new enrollment decision. If the veteran was in Priority Group 6 and no other eligibility factors apply then he/she will continue enrollment in either Priority Group 7 or Priority Group 8 depending on their income level and will be required to make applicable co-pays.

## **Upcoming Events:**



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

**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.

**May 11...**Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 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., rain or shine/

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