



# 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

Gerald B.H. Solomon

Saratoga National Cemetery

## 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



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces and veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouse, un-remarried widow or widower, minor children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children are also eligible for burial. Eligible spouses may be buried, even if they predecease the veteran. Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, the Army and National Guard, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing service or who have 20 years of service in reserve components of the Armed Forces creditable for retired pay. Unmarried, adult children of eligible active duty members or veterans if they become permanently incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability incurred before

attaining the age of 21. Special documentation is required to establish eligibility.

The foregoing summarizes the criteria for the majority of those eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. Other groups associated with the armed forces, such as the World War II Merchant Marines, have recently been identified as eligible for burial benefits. Please see the cemetery director for criteria which are more detailed and may specifically address your eligibility questions.

## For further information, contact:

**Gerald B.H. Solomon**  
Saratoga National Cemetery  
200 Duell Road  
Schuylerville, NY 12871-1721  
(518) 581-9128

## Lifeline and Link Up Help to Pay the Phone Bills

For more than 20 years, New York has helped eligible low-income consumers with their monthly local telephone bills. The Lifeline program, which is applicable to a consumer's local telephone charges for either a flat rate service or a message (per call) service, erases the Federal subscriber line charge (about \$6.50 per month). Generally, a Lifeline customer is charged \$1.00 a month for message service and \$2.00 a month for a flat rate service, which includes a usage charge and allows for unlimited local calls.

Eligibility for the Lifeline program is based on a customer's enrollment in or income-eligibility for the following government assistance programs: Food Stamps, Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Family Assistance, Medicaid, Safety Net Assistance, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veteran's Disability Pension or Veteran's Surviving Spouse Pension.

Consumers can apply for Lifeline by either contacting their local telephone company or their local Social Services Office.

Another helpful program, Link Up, provides assistance for the installation of new telephone service. This program covers most of the cost of installing local phone service to a home but does not cover the costs of wiring inside the home beyond the first wire and jack. Customers who qualify for Lifeline also qualify for Link Up.

For more information, please go to [www.lifeline.gov](http://www.lifeline.gov)

## A Message From Our Director

Hello All-

The original intent of Memorial Day is to honor and remember soldiers who died in the Civil War. It is now observed as a National Holiday on the last Monday in May.

Many Americans have lost sight of the significance of this day to our Nation. Instead of using Memorial Day as a time to honor and reflect on the sacrifices made by Americans in combat, many Americans use the day as a celebration of the beginning of summer.

Today, we find our Country at War, once more. I hope this Memorial Day, that everyone, all across American makes time to attend a parade, speeches, and ceremonies to honor those who paid the ultimate price on behalf of the Nation. Our Nation pays its respect to military men and women, known and unknown. Americans know that freedom is both precious and costly, and that those who expect to enjoy the blessings of freedom must, at times, engage in battle to protect it.

Look in the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter for the parades and

ceremonies listings in your area.

Talking about parades, Sunday, June 10th, is Troy's Flag Day Parade. Rensselaer County Veterans will once more have rides available for those veterans who can not march, and we will march as a unit. Meet us in the upper parking lot of the County Office Building, near the flag pole, at noontime. We will take care of the transportation from there to the parade route and back.

Yours in Patriotism,

*BCB*

## Flag Etiquette

The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff. By order of the President, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the Governor of a State, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitar-

ies, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law. In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any State, territory, or possession of the United States, the Governor of that State, territory, or possession may proclaim that the National flag shall be flown at half-staff.

The flag shall be flown at half-staff thirty days from the death of the President or a former President; ten days from the death of

the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associated Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress. The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day.

## Upcoming Events:



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

- May 6...Ale House 2nd Annual Striped Bass Tournament in conjunction with City of Troy, Sunday, from 7 am to 4 pm , for more info 272-9740
- May 14...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Sgt. Eric W. Morris, US Army, KIA Iraq**
- May 18...Support Our Troops Rally at the 112th St. Park in Lansingburgh, start time Noon
- May 21...Medal Presentation at the North Greenbush American Legion Post #1489 at 6:30 p.m., come and join us to honor some of our own
- May 24...Town of Schaghticoke Memorial Day Parade, kick off 7 p.m.
- May 28...Memorial Day— **OFFICE CLOSED**
- May 28...Averill Park Memorial Day Parade, step off at 10 a.m.
- May 28...Veterans of Lansingburgh 11th Annual Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 11:00 a.m.
- May 28...Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 11 a.m.
- May 28...North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, kick off at 1:00 p.m.
- May 28...Village of Nassau Memorial Day parade, step off at 2:00 p.m.
- June 9...Town of Brunswick's 200th Anniversary and dedication of the new Brunswick Veterans Memorial Park, 1:00 p.m.
- June 10...Annual Troy Flag Day Parade, marches wanted to walk with the Rensselaer County Veterans, please call us if interested @ **270-2760**
- June 11...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Francis Brown, US Navy, KIA USS Liberty**
- June 16...17th Annual Viet-Nam Veterans Get-Together, in Boonville, NY, from noon till ?, ceremony of remembrance 3 pm **SHARP**
- July 4...Independence Day — **OFFICE CLOSED**

## VETERANS NIGHT AT "THE JOE"

Friday, July 6, 2007

Game Time: 7pm

Gates Open: 6pm

\$4 per Veteran or \$7 with a food voucher that includes a hotdog, chips and soda

\*pricing is with grandstand ticket



Contact your ValleyCats Group Representative at (518) 629-CATS for details!

## Troy Flag Day Parade



### MARCHERS WANTED

June 10, 2007 Annual Troy Flag Day Parade

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

## Military Medal Presentation for Local Veterans

Please come and join us to honor some of our local area Veterans, in a special ceremony on May 21, 2007, 6:30 pm at the North Greenbush American Legion Post #1489, located on Main Avenue in Wynantskill.

We will be presenting some local area Veterans with their military awards, medals and decorations in this special ceremony.

Some of the veterans being honored will be presented with their Purple Heart and Bronze Star, just to name a few, in a formal ceremony, which is the policy in Rensselaer County, so that we can show our gratitude and honor to all those who served to protect and defend our freedoms and in honor of our great nation.



## Rensselaer County Veterans Van Transportation Guidelines

- Reservations have to be made five (5) business days prior to scheduled medical appointment, by verbally contacting our office via the telephone. The sooner you book your ride the better the possibility that you will secure your reservation for your transportation needs. If you call and get our voicemail, please leave you name and date and time of your appointment, but we advise that you call our office the following business day to confirm receipt of your message. Also, advising our van drivers of your appointment does not put you on the schedule; you must call the office personally. Calling on a Friday for a Monday appointment does not count as a (5) five business day notice and therefore we may be unable to accommodate your need for transportation.
- There is no charge for this service; however, this service is for non-driving veterans only. If you drive and are going in for a medical appointment which requires that you do not drive, then we will transport you in. We only transport for morning appointments.
- Riders must be able to access the vehicle (in and out) without assistance. We do have a wheelchair accessible van, if you need this type of accommodation, you must let us know at the time you schedule your ride.
- Our drivers are **NOT** required to give personal assistance such as carrying packages from the vehicle into a home. They are also totally forbidden to transport your medical prescriptions. If you need prescriptions, you must ride the van to the VA medical facility to pick them up yourself.
- It is NYS policy to wear a seat belt while in a motor vehicle, therefore we do enforce this law.
- All schedule trip are round trips. Pleas advise at the time of scheduling if you require a one-way trip.
- Cancellation due to weather conditions will be at the discretion of the Veterans Service Agency. You will be notified of cancellations.
- Loss of transportation privileges may result if you are repeatedly not available when the van stops to pick you up; you are not ready when the van is ready to leave the VA or if your language and/or behavior are inappropriate.
- If you are not ready to board the van by 12:30, the drivers will page you. If you do not respond to the page within 5 minutes (either by arriving at the van or verbal contact with the driver), the van may leave without you and you will have to secure your own ride home. After verbal contact with the driver, they will not wait more than five minutes.
- If you are experiencing incontinence, we will expect that you are properly prepared to ride our vehicles without causing a problem, i.e. incontinence clothing additions, etc. The drivers are not allowed to deviate from the scheduled route to accommodate you individual needs.
- In the event of an individual emergency arises, both 911 and the person you designated as you “emergency contact person” will be contacted. Your transportation with us for the remained of the day will be cancelled.
- **NO** food or drink is allowed on the van.

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## New York State Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

New York State Small Business Development Center (SBDC), University of Albany, offers no cost, one to one counseling assisting start-ups or existing businesses to develop business plans, obtaining and identifying marketing research demographics, assist in applying for financing, and many other essentials to operating a business in today’s competitive world.

With the number of military personnel returning from overseas increasing every day, these individuals want to use their military experience and prior experiences to start a business or resurrect the business they left for their active duty tours. SBDC also assist businesses that have lost these valued employees due to the guard and reserve call-ups. This is where the SBDC and the Small Business Administration (SBA) can help in informing the veteran of what is

available to offset some of the financial losses.

The local office of the SBDC covers 11 New York counties in and around the capital region area. The SBDC has 23 offices through out the state, so all veterans (who do not have dishonorable discharges) are eligible for this assistance.

The Veteran Business Outreach Coordinator/Advisor at the local office, here in Albany, is Howard Wildove. He is a retired USAF Lt. Col. Who currently works for the New York State SBDC, University at Albany. His job is to assist all veterans seeking to start their own business or those who have existing businesses and require some form of assistance. He is available for presentations and/or counseling sessions for any eligible military veteran or his/her family member who wants to learn more about what the SBDC can do for them and their business.

Please do not hesitate to contact him at (518) 485-7702 with any questions or requests.

You may also retrieve more information from the SBDC website at: <http://www.nyssbdc.org>

