



Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

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Veterans' Day Events...



JOIN US!!

**In a SALUTE
to Veterans.**

There are several events happening in Rensselaer County to show our appreciation to our Veterans for their sacrifices to preserve both our nation's and our individual freedoms. Please make every effort to join us in recognizing those who served.

On Sunday, November 11th, Veteran's Day all veterans and their immediately family members are invited to our annual **breakfast at the Brunswick Elks** (Route 2) from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. This is a free breakfast sponsored by the Hon. Kathleen M. Jimino, Rensselaer County Executive and the Rensselaer County Veteran's Service Agency. The breakfast will include a noontime **Medal Presentation Ceremony** where we will be presenting medals to some of our local veterans.

Also on Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11th, is the

annual **Memory Walk** in Troy sponsored by the Veterans of Lansingburgh. The walk begins at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall and visits each of Troy's memorials (World War II, Korean and Vietnam). The Veterans of Lansingburgh hosts refreshments at their post following this event.

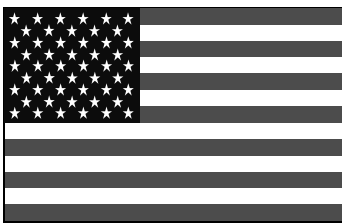
Also on November 11th, the Rensselaer County WWII Memorial Committee will be having a kick-off fundraiser at the Veterans of Lansingburgh from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m., the admission/donation fee is \$15.

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.



OUR VANS WILL BE OFF THE ROAD DECEMBER 24th-December 28th FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE.



Services offered...

- Compensation: service-connected
- Pension: non-service connected
- Death Pension
- Federal Grave Markers
- VA Insurance Claims
- Medical Van Transportation

WWII Veterans Trip to View the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. :

As the average age of our WWII veterans reaches 85 years old many will be unable to see first hand the recently erected WWII Memorial in Washington D.C. in honor of their service and sacrifice.

To remedy this efforts are underway to start a movement to give all WWII Veterans of Rensselaer County an opportunity to fly to Washington D.C. to view their WWII National Memorial, which was finally completed and

dedicated in May Of 2004. A planning committee is being formed and the goal is to make the first "Rensselaer County Patriot Flight" in 2008.

Chartered "Patriot" flights will take the Veterans and health guardians on a one-day excursion from Albany International Airport, leaving early morning and returning by 6 pm the same day, at no cost to the Veterans. Upon arrival in Washington D.C., the veterans and

their health guardians will be met by motor coaches, taken to lunch and then transported to view the WWII Memorial.

The plan is that there will be **NO COST** to any WWII Veteran. The amount needed to be raised per veteran is approximately **\$400**. Private donations from WWII veterans will NOT be accepted

For more info please contact Bill Peak @ 279-4908 or Sue Aluck @ 283-2395.

Message from our County Executive...Kathleen M. Jimino:

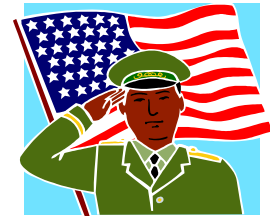
The freedoms we enjoy as Americans have been paid for with the sacrifices of the men and women of uniform who through their selfless acts have defended our freedoms from threats in every corner of this world. Throughout our Nation's history, members of our Armed Forces put their lives on the line to defend the principles of freedom the United States of America represents.

As we approach Veterans Day

and participate in the ceremonies honoring our heroes I ask that we remember and honor all those who have served our nation. I am also hopeful that we can all take a moment to think of the soldiers currently serving in hostile territory and those soon to be deployed there, and pray for their safe return home. As the stories of their heroism and dedication inundate us we must also be mindful of their families left here at home and the sacrifices they make day in and

day out as they await the return home of their sons, daughters, husbands and wives.

Sincerely,
Kathleen M. Jimino
 Kathleen M. Jimino



USPS Military Pack

The United States Postal Service (USPS) has a program for military family members and friends to supply them with packaging materials to send to troops overseas.

Call 1-800-610-8734 and select option #1, then hit #1 again. Ask them for the "Military Pack"/ They will send you 8 boxes, tape, packaging material and labels. They will also give you an I.D.

number so if your supply runs low, you just call them up and they'll send you more supplies.

The materials take about four to ten days to receive. Since most places charge you for the box, tape, filler, labels and everything else—this should help save some money. For more information on mailing items to Service Members, visit the UPSP FAQ page.

Merchant Marine Bonus

On July 18, 2007 Governor Eliot Spitzer signed into law, legislation authorizing a one time bonus payment of \$250 to Merchant Marines who were not otherwise eligible for the WWII bonus.

This bonus is for the veteran or unremarried spouse. No monies shall be paid before April 1, 2008 (the money was budgeted for next fiscal year). Residency requirement is the veteran must have lived on NYS 6 months prior to enlistment.

For more information, please contact the NYS DVA at 474-6114.

Upcoming Events...



Call our office by the 15th of the month to list your event

November 6...Election Day—REMEMBER TO VOTE!!! (office closed).

November 11...Veterans Day

November 11...**Veterans Breakfast and Medal Presentation Ceremony 8:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m..** (see feature story).

November 11...Veterans Day Memory Walk in Troy, meeting at Troy City Hall, 9 a.m. start time.

November 11...Rensselaer County WWII Memorial Committee kick-off fundraiser (see feature story).

November 11...Free car wash at Hoffman's Car Wash for all veterans.

November 12...Veteran's Day observed (office closed).

November 13...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Thomas F. Callahan, US Army, WWI**

November 22 & 23...HAPPY THANKSGIVING—Office Closed

December 11...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m. **Richard O. Gross, US Air Force, Vietnam Era**

December 25... Christmas Day (office closed).



