



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 7th, all veterans and their immediately family members are invited to our annual **breakfast at the North Greenbush American Legion**

Post (Main Street, Wynantskill) 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 Veterans Service Agency. Including a noontime **Medal Presentation Ceremony** where we will be presenting medals to some of our local veterans.

Also on Veterans Day, Thursday November 11th, is the annual **Memory Walk** in Troy sponsored by the Veterans of Lansingburgh. The walk begins at 9:00 a.m. at the old Troy City Hall

near Monument Square Memorial 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, Hoffman's Car Wash will be giving free car washes to all veterans.

On Tuesday, November 9th, Questar III located at 35 Colleen Rd. in Troy will be holding a free Veterans Day Dinner for all local veterans from 11 am to 12:30 pm, please call 273-2264 to reserve your seating.

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.

Call 270-2760



**OUR VANS
WILL BE OFF THE ROAD
DECEMBER 20TH—
DECEMBER 24TH**

Veterans Week November 8th –12th

A commemoration and celebration
of veterans and their families

Featuring:

- >>Community resource fair
- >>Full-day clinical mental health conference
- >>National speakers
- >>International arts and films
- >>Veterans quilt display
- >>Commemorative art and oral history project

And more....

Open to the public

Learn more at sage.edu/veterans

A Message From Our Director.....

"Happy Veterans Day", County Executive Kathleen M. Jimino is honored to sponsor our 12th Annual Free Veterans Day Breakfast and medal presentation at the North Greenbush American Legion Post #1489 on Main Avenue in Wynantskill on November 7th, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am, with a medal presentation at noontime.

Last year there were over 800 veterans and immediate family members served and we expect the same attendance this year. This is just one small way that our county can say **Thank You** for your service to our country. We have men and women in harms way once more and we all pray for their safe return.

Anyone who has lost, misplaced or never received their military medals, or are looking for a passed loved ones medals, please call our office and we will gladly assist you. When your medals arrive we will notify you of the next medal presentation that we are holding, so that you may be presented with your medals during a formal formation.

Don't forget your free car wash at Hoffman's Car Wash on Veterans Day. It is the fifth consecutive year that the Hoffman family has offered this special recognition to our veteran community. Please take a moment to thank them.

Yours in Patriotism,

BOB

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

I have always known in my heart that the Rensselaer County community truly supported the men and women who have in the past served and those that are currently serving in our nation's armed forces.

This fact was made overwhelmingly clear by the many people who took the time to pay their respects to and welcome home Staff Sgt. Derek Farley. The outpouring of support was truly amazing and certainly fitting for a man who lost his life performing a heroic task on behalf of us all.

I want to personally thank everyone who helped welcome Staff Sgt. Derek Farley home and provided comfort and support to his family and friends.

Sincerely,
Kathleen M. Jimino

In Loving Memory



SSGT. Derek J. Farley
1986-2010

Burial and Memorial Benefits:

Eligibility...

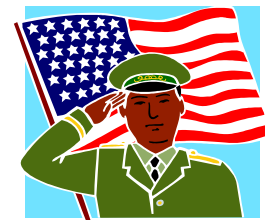
Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and service members who die while on active duty, as well as spouses and dependent children of veterans and active service members, may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits. The veteran does not have to pre-decease a spouse or dependent child to be eligible.

VA national cemetery directors verify eligibility for burial in their cemeteries.

A copy of the veteran's discharge document that specifies the period(s) of active duty and character of discharge, along with the decedent's death certificate and proof of relationship to the veteran (for eligible family members) are all that are usually needed to determine eligibility.

Benefits include burial in VA National Cemeteries, Headstones and Markers, Presidential Memorial Certificates, burial flags, reimbursement of burial expenses and military funeral honors.

The funeral director and the next of kin make all arrangements for burial. We are, however, always available to assist where needed. Particulars on each of these benefits may be obtained by contacting our office.



Upcoming Events...



Call our office to inquiry about listing your event

November 2...Election Day—REMEMBER TO VOTE!!! **OFFICE CLOSED**

November 7...Free Veterans Day Breakfast at the North Greenbush American Legion Post, 8:30 am-11:30 am, noontime Medal Presentation

November 8...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony-County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am, **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

November 9...Free Veteran Day Dinner at Questar III from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, please call 273-2264 to reserve your seats

November 11...Veterans Day— **OFFICE CLOSED**

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

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

November 25 & 26...HAPPY THANKSGIVING—**OFFICE CLOSED**

Retroactive Stop Loss Pay (RSLSP)

RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY Those eligible must submit their claim by Oct. 21, 2010.

The DoD Web site (<http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>) links to service-specific sites, where you can get more information, or begin the RSLSP claim process.

The 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act established **Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP)**, providing \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, veterans, and beneficiaries of service members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009 are eligible for RSLSP.

To receive this benefit, those who served under stop loss must submit a claim for the special pay (by Oct. 21, 2010). Throughout the year, the services have been reaching out to service members, veterans and their families through direct mail, veteran service organizations, and the media. But there is still money left to be claimed, and the deadline is approaching.

The average benefit is \$3,700.

Note on Eligibility

Effective Dec. 19, 2009, per the Defense Appropriations Act, stop-loss service members who voluntarily re-enlisted or extended their service, and received a bonus for such reenlistment or extension of service, became no longer eligible to receive retroactive stop loss special pay.

The following service-specific sites provide more information and allow you to begin the RSLSP claim process.

- Army:

877-736-5554

Website: <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil>

E-mail RetroStopLossPay@CONUS.Army.Mil

- Navy:

901-874-4427

Web site: http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/MILPERSMAN/7000FinancialMgmt/7220_410.htm

E-mail: NXAG_N132C@navy.mil

- Marine Corps:

877-242-2830

Website: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss>

E-mail: stoploss@usmc.mil

- Air Force:

800-525-0102

Website: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss/>

E-mail (active): afpc.dpsos.stoploss@randolph.af.mil

E-mail (guard/reserve): arpc.contactcenter@arpc.denver.af.mil

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Retroactive Stop Loss PayContinued from Page 3

General Procedure

Individuals who meet eligibility criteria may submit an application between 21 October 2009 and 21 October 2010. By law, there is no authorization to make payments on claims that are submitted after 21 October 2010.

Eligible members should print, complete and sign [Department of Defense Form 2944, Claim for Retroactive Stop Loss Payment](#).

Next, choose the appropriate method for submitting the claim form and available supporting documents based on your service specifications. This information can be found on your service's stop loss Web site.

The following documents are examples of authorized source documents but may not be comprehensive, depending on specific status and service.

Source Documents

1. DD 214 (8-09), Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty and/or DD 215 (8-09), Correction to DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.
2. Personnel record or enlistment or reenlistment document recording original expiration of service date.
3. Approved retirement/transfer to the Fleet Reserve memorandum or orders establishing retirement prior to actual date of retirement as stipulated in DD 214 or DD 215.
4. Approved resignation memorandum or transition orders establishing a separation date prior to actual date of separation as stipulated on DD 214 or DD 215.
5. Signed documentation or affidavit from knowledgeable officials from the individual's chain of command acknowledging separation/deployment, etc.
6. Revocation of retirement or separation orders.

Stars for our Troops

The Ladies Auxiliary of Germania Hall of North Troy are collecting used American Flags to continue what was started by four women from Florida called the [Star Project](#).

From U.S. flags that have worn out their colors and fabric, we are cutting from them the fields of blue, then scissoring off the embroidered stars. Into a plastic bag go a star and an explanation: "I am part of our American flag that has flown over a home in the U.S.A. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds have caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that you are not forgotten."

Flags should be approximately 5 feet by 3 feet, so that the stars are about the size of half-dollars. We are requesting help in obtaining these flags, and also people (with scissors) that would be willing to share a couple of hours on the third Sunday of every month to make these packets for our troops - overseas and at home, as well as local veterans.

Flags can be brought to Germania Hall on Friday nights from 5 to 9 PM, or on the third Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 PM. We will have remnants of flags ready to be properly processed at your next flag burning ceremony. We would like help locating soldiers that are going to Iraq and Afghanistan so we can give some to them to share with others. If you have a local contact for organizations that are sending packages overseas so they can add them to the packages.

Please contact me for additional information, people that will participate with us in this project for our troops.

Susan E Wells
President, Ladies Auxiliary
518-235-1558
TroyGermania@aol.com
