



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
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Eligibility for New Improved Federal Death Pension

VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible, spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18.

The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or a service-connected disability justifying discharge. Longer periods of service may be required for veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or October 16, 1981, if an officer. If the veteran died in service but not in the line of duty, the death pension may be payable if the veteran had completed at least two years of honorable service.

Children who become incapable of self-support because of a disability before age 18 may be eligible for the death pension as long as the condition exists, unless the child marries or the child's income exceeds the applicable amount.

A surviving spouse may be entitled to a higher income limit if living in a nursing home, in need of the aid and attendance of another person or is permanently housebound.

PAYMENT: The death pension provides a monthly payment to bring an eligible person's income to a level established by law. The payment is reduced by the annual income from other sources such as Social Security. The payment may be increased if the recipient has unreimbursed medical expenses that can be deducted from countable income.

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.





VETERANS STAND-DOWN
Saturday, October 13, 2007
8 a.m.—1 p.m.
At the
Colonie BPO Elks #2192
11 Elks Lane, Latham, NY




CORRECTION

In our June 2007 newsletter, the highlighted benefit of the month was the *NYS Veterans Tax Exemption*, we erroneously put the Vietnam War start date as *December 22, 1961-May 7, 1975*; this date was changed last year and is now recognized with a start date of *February 28, 1961-May 7, 1975*.

TIME CHANGE

For the Capital Region Stand-Down, the time is now *8 am—1 pm*, on October 13, 2007 at the Colonie Elks, 11 Elks Lane, Latham, NY



9th Annual Veterans Breakfast
Sunday, November 11, 2007
8:30 am-11:30 am
Noontime Medal Presentation Ceremony
Free Breakfast at the Brunswick Elks
665 Brunswick Rd, Eagle Mills
(Free to all Veterans & Immediate Family Members only please)

For more information, please call 270-2760

A Message From Our Director

Hello All-

I can not believe it is October already! The change is in the air and soon we will be wondering when summer is coming. On October 20th, I will be off on a return trip to Vietnam, this trip will have many changes with it. After 36+ years things are sure to be different. My return will not be until November 7th, so I will have much to share in the December newsletter.

I plan to participate in healing (for my-

self), reconstruction and restoration, and I could use your help. I will be donating a water buffalo to a very poor and needy family outside of Da Nang. (\$600.00) Also I want to help raise money to build a nursery/kindergarten school in the Mekong Delta. Anyone who would like to help out with donations please contact me. I will also be looking for school supplies and children's clothing (small sizes), used or new, as long as there are in good condition. The ages of the children are 3-7.

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you Happiness, Bad days give you Experiences, both are essential to Life. Keep going, Happiness keeps you Sweet, Trials keep you Strong, Sorrow keeps you Human, Failure keeps you Humble, Success keeps you Growing.

Yours in Patriotism,

Bob

New York State Access Pass

An Access Pass permits residents of New York State with a permanent disability, as defined for veterans as :

-Certification from the US Veterans Administration, the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs or your local County VSA, stating that as a veteran of a war of the United States and having a 40% or greater service-related disability or are eligible for an allowance by the Federal Government for the purchase of an automobile.

These eligible veterans qualify for free use of parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and His-

toric Preservation and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

The pass holder may have free use of facilities operated by these offices, for which there is normally a charge-for example, parking, camping, greens fees and swimming.

The Pass, however, is not valid at any facility within a park operated by a private concern under contract to the State, or for a waiver of fees such as those for seasonal marina dockage, for a group camp, for reservations of a picnic shelter, for performing arts programs, for consumables (i.e. firewood,

electric, or gas), for campsite/cabin amenities, or for fees related to campsite/cabin reservations and registrations.

To qualify for an Access Pass, an applicant must be a resident of NYS, must provide proof of disability, in the form of certification from the appropriate agency or by a physician, and must provide a recent photograph that will be affixed to the Access Pass.

If you believe you qualify for this Pass, please feel free to contact our office at 270-2760, and we will help you to obtain the necessary documentations and Access Pass application.

Upcoming Events:



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

October 8...Columbus Day observed—**OFFICE CLOSED**

October 9...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony—County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 a.m., **Edward F. McDonough, US Army, Korea**

October 13...Capital Region **Veterans Stand-Down** 8 a.m.—1 p.m. at the Colonie Elks

November 6...Election Day—**OFFICE CLOSED**

November 11...Veterans Day

November 11...Veterans Day Walk in Troy, meeting at Troy City Hall at 9 am

November 11...Rensselaer County WWII Memorial Kick-Off Fundraiser at the Veterans of Lansingburgh 12 p.m.-6 p.m., \$15 admission

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

November 11...Free Veterans Day Breakfast at the Brunswick Elks, 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m., medal presentation at Noon

November 12...**OFFICE CLOSED**— in observance of Veterans Day

November 13...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony—County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 a.m., **Thomas F. Callahan, US Army, WWI**

November 22...Thanksgiving Day—**OFFICE CLOSED**

November 23...**OFFICE CLOSED**


