



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
Veterans Service Agency
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Director

Armed Forces Retirement Home

Veterans are eligible to live in the Armed Forces Retirement Home located in Gulfport, Mississippi or Washington, D.C., if their active duty military service is at least 50 percent enlisted, warrant officer or limited duty officer if they qualify under one of the following categories:

- 1) Are 60 years of age or older; and were discharged or released under honorable conditions after 20 or more years of active service.
- 2) Are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of a service-connected disability incurred in the line of duty.
- 3) Served in a war theater during a time of war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostile fire special pay and were discharged or released under honorable conditions; and are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of injuries, disease or disability.
- 4) Served in a women's component of the armed forces before June 12, 1948; and are determined to be eligible for admission due to compelling personal circumstances.

Eligibility determinations are based on rules prescribed by the Home's Chief Operating Officer. Veterans are not eligible if they have been convicted of a felony or suffering from alcohol, drug or psychiatric problems. Married couples are welcomed, but both must be eligible in their own right. At the time of admission, applicants must be capable of living independently.

The Armed Forces Retirement Home is an independent federal agency. For information, call 1-800-332-3527 or 1-800-422-9988, or visit their Web site at <http://www/afrh.gov/>.

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.



Please Note:

Both our county veterans vans will be off the road from December 26, 2011 to January 2, 2012 for annual maintenance. They will resume their normal scheduled days and hours of operation on January 3, 2012.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

NOVEMBER 14, 2011 HONOR-A-DECEASED VETERAN CEREMONY

HONOREE IS :
THOMAS F. SHARPE

We would like as many people in attendance as possible. Tom was not just the MOPH NY Commander and MOPH National Commander but he was also a member of the Rensselaer County HAV Committee for many years.



13th Annual Veterans Brunch
Sunday, November 6, 2011
8:30 am-11:30 am

Noontime Medal Presentation Ceremony
Free Breakfast at the North Greenbush
American Legion Post #1489
Main Avenue, Wynantskill
(Free to all Veterans & Immediate
Family Members only please)
For more information, please call 270-2760

A Message From Our Director

Hello All-

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have a new family member at Rensselaer County Veterans; Lonnie's baby is due very soon and we are very happy. I do want to tell you all that she would not take any money for naming rights, I can't even buy a baby's name any more, what's with that? Lonnie will be out until after the first of January so things are going to be very different. There is only so much that our office will be able to do, so please bear with us in her absent.

Our annual breakfast/brunch will be November 6th (see more in the add in this newsletter), it has always been a good event and we do need help. Please call our office at 270-2760 if you're looking to help

with

serving and dining hall or call Marie Busher at 237-9367. Please support our ad book for the brunch/breakfast so that we can keep this event at no charge and plan on staying when we do our noontime Medal Presentation Ceremony.

Lots of benefits have changed for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and I urge you to call me so that we can review your case. Also did you know that if you already have a service connected claim and the condition has gotten worse it can be reopened? Say you have a claim in for a bad ankle and now your knee is bad or your back or other knee is giving you trouble because of the way you're walking from your bad ankle, we can put in a claim for those

conditions.

We are planning on a trip to Vietnam in early January with about 10 local veterans, to help them deal with some pass issues and are looking for donations for some of our veterans who just can't do it on their own. The cost is just over \$4,000.00 per veteran, half of the cost is for airfares alone, we will be in Vietnam for about 2 and a half weeks. If this is something you have been thinking of doing, you need to get a hold of me ASAP; the cutoff date is coming soon. Even if you're not a Vietnam veteran it is a very safe and beautiful place to visit and your U.S. money goes a long way.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family,

Commissary and Exchange Privileges

Unlimited exchange and commissary store privileges in the United States are available to honorably discharges veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 100 percent, unmarried surviving spouses of members or retired members of the armed forces, recipients of the Medal of Honor, and their dependents and orphans. Certification of total disability is done by the VA. Reservists and their dependents also may be eligible. Privileges overseas are governed

by international law and are available only if agreed upon by the foreign government concerned.

Though these benefits are provided by DOD, VA does provide assistance in completing DD Form 1172, "Application for Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card." For detailed information, contact the nearest military installation.

For ID cards, call for an Appointment at the following:

- Albany Reserve Center: 489-5441
- Glens Falls: 792-6368
- Latham DMNA: 786-4406
- Stratton ANG: 344-2436
- Watervliet Arsenal: 266-5111
- Navy Exchange: 886-0200
Ext:9104 or Ext:111

Commissary:

- Saratoga Springs Commissary:
886-0200 Ext: 104 or 105
- Navy Exchange: 377-6440

Upcoming Events:



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

October 10...Columbus Day observed—**OFFICE CLOSED**

October 11...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony—County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 a.m., **First Lt. Roger A. Fulkerson, KIA-Vietnam**

November 6....Free Veterans Day Brunch at the North Greenbush AL Post #1489, 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m., medal presentation at Noontime

November 8...Election Day—**OFFICE CLOSED**

November 9 ... Questar III Veterans Day Luncheon 11:00—12:30 pm, Rensselaer Education Center, 35 Colleen Road, Troy

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

November 11...Veterans Day Walk in Troy, meet at 9 am

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

November 14...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony—County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 a.m., **Thomas F. Sharpe, USMC, Korea**

November 24...Thanksgiving Day—**OFFICE CLOSED**

November 25...**OFFICE CLOSED**
