



# Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

STEVEN F. MCLAUGHLIN  
County Executive

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PETER K. GOEBEL  
Director

Rensselaer County  
Unified Family Services  
Veterans Service Agency  
1600 Seventh Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180  
Phone: (518) 270-2760  
FAX: (518) 270-2956  
Www.rensco.com

## DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Disability compensation is a monthly tax-free benefit paid to Veterans who are at least 10% disabled because of injuries or diseases that were incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as a mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

### BENEFIT

The benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the Veteran's disability on a scale from 10 percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may also be paid for disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

If you have dependents, an additional allowance may be added if your combined disability is rated 30% or greater. Your compensation may be offset if you receive military retirement pay, disability severance pay, or separation incentive payments.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Service in the Uniformed Services on active duty, **OR**
- Active duty for training, **OR**
- Inactive duty training, **AND**
- You were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- You are at least 10% disabled by an injury or disease that was incurred in or aggravated during active duty or active duty for training, or inactive duty training

**Note:** If you were on inactive duty for training, the disability must have resulted from injury, heart attack, or stroke.

### EVIDENCE REQUIRED

- Medical evidence of a current physical or mental disability, **AND**
- Evidence of a relationship between your disability and an injury, disease, or event in military service. Medical records or medical opinions are required to establish this relationship.

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### Van Transportation...

- \* *Don't drive* and need to get to the VA Medical Center?
- \* We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC for **most morning** medical appointments.

For more information please call (518) 270-2760.



## VETERANS CRISIS LINE

1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1

**\*\*Confidential chat at Veterans CrisisLine.net or text to 838255\*\***  
TTY service 1-800-799-4889

**Confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, for veterans and their loved ones**

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**NOTE:** UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, VA MAY CONCLUDE THAT CERTAIN CURRENT DISABILITIES WERE CAUSED BY SERVICE, EVEN IF THERE IS NO SPECIFIC EVIDENCE PROVING THIS IN YOUR PARTICULAR CLAIM. THE CAUSE OF A DISABILITY IS PRESUMED FOR THE FOLLOWING VETERANS WHO HAVE CERTAIN DISEASES.

**PRESUMED DISABILITY**

- Former prisoners of war
- Veterans who have certain chronic or tropical diseases that become evident within a specific period of time after discharge from service
- Veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation, mustard gas, or Lewisite while in service
- Veterans who were exposed to certain herbicides, such as by serving in Vietnam
- Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War

**EXAMPLE 1**

During a weekend drill, an Army Reservist injures her knee while participating in a physical training class. She is eligible for compensation for residuals of the knee injury.

**EXAMPLE 2**

An individual enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June 10, 1988, and served for a period of 3 years. He was honorably discharged on June 9, 1991. During his active duty, he fell from a bunk and injured his back. Based on his active service, he is entitled to service-connected benefits for the residuals of his back injury.

## **HONOR-A-DECEASED VETERAN CEREMONY**

Every second Monday of the month, Rensselaer County honors a deceased veteran in a very moving and respectful ceremony in the County Legislative Chambers.

If you have a loved one who was a veteran from Rensselaer County and would like to have them honored, please contact the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency at 270-2760 for an application.

The following criteria applies to the honorees:

- Must have personal tie to Rensselaer County (born, raised, or resided in);
- Must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and discharge must accompany application;
- Copy of obituary must accompany application;
- May only be honored once;
- Submitted applications must be legible and have a family contact (name, address and telephone number);
- List of all medals, campaigns, and battles;
- Include civilian history (all community services and organizations);
- Be as detailed as possible, the entire ceremony is dedicated to this one particular veteran and it is their life story;
- Completed applications and supporting info must be turned into:

*Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency, 1600 Seventh Avenue, Troy, New York 12180*

**For an application , please call us at 518-270-2760 or download an application at [www.rensco.com](http://www.rensco.com)**



## **Hearts for Heroes – Resiliency Luncheon**

### **Reuniting, Reconnecting and Rebuilding for Military Members, Veterans and their Families**

**Hosted by:  
American Red Cross.  
33 Everett Road  
Albany, NY 12205  
12:00pm – 1:30pm – Lunch Provided  
February 12, 2018**

Many military members and veterans successfully readjust to their lives at home. Others experience difficulty in readjusting or transitioning back to family life, their jobs and living in their communities.

The American Red Cross has developed the Reconnection Workshop Resiliency Programs to focus on small groups through facilitated sessions that enhance the likelihood of positive reconnections into civilian life. You are invited to attend this special event being hosted in your area.

The program is offered at no-cost and is a confidential program in a safe environment. Reservations are required. Space is limited.

For more information or to make your reservation, please contact Dianna Rios-American Red Cross – 518-694-5160 or [dianna.rios@redcross.org](mailto:dianna.rios@redcross.org)



## A Message From Our Director

Congratulations and all the best to our new County Executive, Steven F. McLaughlin. I know that he will continue his unwavering commitment to our County's Veterans as he has previously done while serving as our State Assemblyman.

Another Northeast winter is in full swing, so please remember to help out your neighbor Veterans who may need assistance. All Veterans should have their DD-214's or discharge documents registered at the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency and/or the Rensselaer County Clerk's Office. Honorably Discharged Veterans can get their Return the FAVOR card at the County Clerk's Office at 150 Third Street, Troy, New York or call them at (518) 270-4080.

Remember to find those deceased Veterans that we can honor. Everyone at your Posts and every Veteran out there should know at least one Veteran that the Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Committee can remember in the monthly poignant ceremony and each Post should also contact the Rensselaer County Legislature to honor our living Veterans at (518) 270-2880 or email: [Renscoleg@rensco.com](mailto:Renscoleg@rensco.com). This is a straight forward process and won't take much time.

Spring will be here soon and so will Memorial Day when we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation.

Yours in Patriotism,

*Peter K. Goebel*

### Upcoming Events...



Call our office to inquiry about listing your event (518)270-2760

February 12th ...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:30 am,

*Thomas P. Ryan, USN-WWII*

February 12th...Hearts for Heroes—Resiliency Luncheon hosted by the ARC, call (518)694-5160 to register

February 19th.....PRESIDENT'S DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

March 12th...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:30 am,

*Abbott L. Wiley – USA – WWII*