



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
Veterans Service Agency

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East Greenbush, NY 12061

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STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
County Executive

CHRISTOPHER E. ALBERT
Director

VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)

The VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) offers discounted private dental insurance for Veterans and family members who meet certain requirements. Find out if you're eligible, and how to enroll in a plan that meets your needs and budget.

Am I eligible for the VA Dental Insurance Program?

You may be eligible for VADIP if you meet one of these requirements.

One of these must be true:

- You're a Veteran who's enrolled in VA health care, **or**
- You're the current or surviving spouse or dependent child of a Veteran or service member, and you're enrolled in the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA)

Here's what to know:

- VADIP provides coverage throughout the United States and its territories, including Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- VADIP started as a temporary program. It's now a permanent VA program with no end date.
- Insurance carriers may offer separate coverage options for dependents who aren't CHAMPVA beneficiaries.

About VA Dental Insurance Program benefits and how to enroll

Why might I want to buy private dental insurance through VADIP as a Veteran?

While some Veterans enrolled in VA health care are eligible for free dental care from our providers, many are not. Others may be eligible for free care for some, but not all, of their dental needs.

If you're not eligible for free VA dental care, VADIP can help you buy private dental insurance at a reduced cost.

If you're eligible for free VA care for some of your dental needs, you can buy a VADIP plan if you want added dental insurance. Signing up for VADIP won't affect your ability to get free VA dental care.

What types of dental care does VADIP cover, and how much will it cost? **VADIP plans cover many common dental procedures. These may include:**

- Diagnostic service
- Preventive dental care
- Root canals and other services to manage oral health problems and restore function (called endodontic or restorative services)
- Dental surgery
- Emergency dental care

The costs for your coverage will depend on the insurance company and plan you choose.

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Van Transportation...

Don't drive and need to get to the Albany VA Medical Center ?

We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the Albany VAMC for *most morning* medical appointments.

For more details call:
518-270-2760.



VETERANS CRISIS LINE

**DIAL 988
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.



NEW YORK STATE AFGHANISTAN WAR COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

Description

The New York State Afghanistan War Commemorative Medal was created to honor New York State Service Members who served during the Afghanistan War, in the timeframe of 07 October 2001 - 30 August 2021.

Eligibility

Service Member who served in Afghanistan between 07 October 2001 and 30 August 2021.

The New York State Afghanistan War Commemorative Medal does not provide the holder with any monetary benefits or disability compensation. It is simply an expression of support and appreciation from the New York State Legislature and the people of New York to veterans for their honorable military service.



NEW YORK STATE IRAQ WAR COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

Description

The New York State Iraq War Commemorative Medal was created to honor New York State Service Members who served during the Iraq War, in the timeframe of 10 March 2003 – 31 December 2021.

Eligibility

Service Member who served in Iraq between 20 March 2003 and 31 December 2021.

The New York State Iraq War Commemorative Medal does not provide the holder with any monetary benefits or disability compensation. It is simply an expression of support and appreciation from the New York State Legislature and the people of New York to veterans for their honorable military service.

To apply for NYS Military Awards and Decorations: <https://dmna.ny.gov/awards/>, you can either apply online or download the form to apply by mail.

For questions about New York State Military awards, contact the New York State Awards Program:

Phone: [518-786-0468](tel:518-786-0468)

****RETURN THE F.A.V.O.R. VETERAN DISCOUNT PROGRAM****

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE? Eligibility for the Rensselaer County Veterans Discount Program is for Veterans or the widows/widowers of Veterans.

Eligibility for an ID card is dependent on being an honorably discharged Veteran of the United States Military. The Veteran or widow/widower **MUST** apply for the card in person.

Receipt of the Veterans FAVOR card is dependent on the Veteran or widow/widower's filing of an original Discharge (DD-214) at the Rensselaer County Clerk's Office.

WHERE DO I APPLY?

Rensselaer County Clerk's Office
105 Third Street
Troy, NY 12180
518- 270-4080

A Message from our County Executive

Veterans served and protected our freedom and security. Our veterans and their families have earned our support and services from Rensselaer County. That is why we made important improvements including a new and convenient Veteran Service Agency office at county offices in East Greenbush and a veteran memorial park in front of the county offices at 99 Troy Road.

Recently, my office took delivery of a new van that will be used to transport veterans to medical appointments, check-ups and related visits. The new van will ensure safe and efficient travel for veterans and be a real asset to the services we provide. Thanks to Chris Albert and Lonnie Warrington of the VSA for their work on the new van.

Chris recently organized a visit by veterans to a ValleyCats game and enjoyed an evening at the Joseph L. Bruno Stadium. The outing is part of our efforts to expand programs and activities that veterans and their families can enjoy here in Rensselaer County. We look forward to sharing news on more veteran events in the coming weeks that show our appreciation and respect for your service and dedication to our nation.

Steven F. McLaughlin

Upcoming Events:



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

September 8th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:30 a.m.,

Andrew J. Carras-USN,SCI-WWII

September 20th...Red, White and Brew Fest at the Albany MVP Arena, Free Admission

September 27th & 28th...Eastern NY Benefit Tractor Pull 2025, benefits DAV Veterans at Schaghticoke Fair Grounds, for more info call Ron 518-232-5026 (rartractors@verizon.net), Freddie 518-322-3567 or CJ 518-223-3831

October 4th...Oktobefest at Junior's Bar and Grill, 48 North Greenbush Rd., Troy, 5pm-8pm

October 13th...*COLUMBUS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED*

October 14th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:30 a.m.,

Dominick J. Pasinella, Sr –USA, Sgt.-Vietnam Era

November 4th...*ELECTION DAY—OFFICE CLOSED*

November 9th...26TH Annual Free Rensselaer County Veterans Breakfast at the Melvin Roads American Legion Post #1231, 200 Columbia Tpk., Rensselaer, New York. Please call 518-270-2760 for more info.

November 10th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:30 a.m.,

James A. Schaeffer- USA, MSG-Vietnam

November 11th...*VETERANS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED*

MILITARY AWARDS & MEDALS

- NEVER RECEIVED YOUR MILITARY AWARDS & MEDALS?
- HAVE YOU MISPLACED OR LOST THEM?
- DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE WHO IS A VETERAN AND THEY DO NOT HAVE THEIR MEDALS?
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO REQUEST THEM?

CALL THE RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY at (518) 270-2760

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Based on your plan, you'll pay:

- The full insurance premium for each individual on your plan
- Any required copays when you get care

Read coverage details and compare VADIP plans and premium rates:

[Learn about Delta Dental coverage:](https://www1.deltadentalins.com/federal/vadip.html) <https://www1.deltadentalins.com/federal/vadip.html>

[Learn about MetLife coverage:](https://www.metlife.com/vadip/) <https://www.metlife.com/vadip/>

How do I enroll in a VADIP plan?

Once you've chosen a Delta Dental or MetLife VADIP plan, you can enroll online:

[Enroll in Delta Dental plan:](https://www1.deltadentalins.com/federal/vadip.html) <https://www1.deltadentalins.com/federal/vadip.html> **or**

[Enroll in MetLife plan:](https://www.metlife.com/vadip/)<https://www.metlife.com/vadip/>

After you enroll, you can also use your insurance provider's website to manage your plan and benefits online.

I enrolled in the VADIP pilot program. Do I need to enroll again?

Yes. The VADIP pilot program ran from 2013 to 2017.

If you were covered during that time, you'll need to enroll again to get new coverage. You should know that some of the plan options and fees may have changed.

What if I have more questions?

For questions about Delta Dental, call [855-370-3303](tel:855-370-3303).

For questions about MetLife, call [888-310-1681](tel:888-310-1681).



26th ANNUAL VETERANS BREAKFAST
Sunday, November 9, 2025 8:00 am– 10:00 am

Free to all Rensselaer County Veterans & Immediate Family Members
Melvin Roads American Legion Post #1231
200 Columbia Tpk., Rensselaer, New York

Sponsored by County Executive Steven F. McLaughlin and the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency

For more information on how to purchase an ad in our booklet or to donate, please call (518) 270-2760