



# RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County  
Unified Family Services  
Veterans Service Agency

99 Troy Road  
East Greenbush, NY 12061

Phone: (518) 270-2760  
FAX: (518) 270-2956  
www.rensco.com

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STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN  
County Executive

## Military Medals and Records

### Receiving or Replacing Military Medals:

Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the individual military services, if requested by veteran(s) or their next of kin. Requests for replacement medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the branch of military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army veterans, the National Personnel Records center (NPRC) verifies awards and forwards requests and verification to appropriate services.

Requests for replacement medals should be submitted on Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records," which may be obtained at your local VA office. Please feel free to call our office to obtain this form.

Clearly type or print the veteran's full name, include the veteran's branch of service, service number or Social Security number, and provide the veteran's exact or approximate dates of military service. The request must contain the signature of the veteran or next of kin if the veteran is deceased. If available, include a copy of the discharge or separation document.

### Receiving or Replacing Military Records:

If discharge or separation papers are lost, veterans or the next of kin of the deceased veterans may obtain duplicate copies by writing the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, One Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138-1002; use Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records". Please feel free to contact our office to obtain this form.

The veteran's full name should be printed or typed so that it can be read clearly, but the request must also contain the signature of the veteran or the signature of the next of kin, if the veteran is deceased.

Include branch of service, service number or Social Security number and exact or approximate dates and years of service.

You may also request a copy of military records via the internet at [www.archives.gov/research/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/index.html). If you choose this method, we strongly suggest that once the records are received by the veteran, that they register a copy with their local Veterans Service Agency.

### 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  
[VeteransCrisisLine.net/](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/)  
Chat 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.

## **Lifetime Liberty Pass**

The Lifetime Liberty Pass permits qualified New York State veterans with disabilities discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the Office Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) and the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Once issued, the Lifetime Liberty Pass will never have to be renewed!

The Lifetime Liberty Pass benefits includes free vehicle entry to state parks and DEC-operated day-use areas, as well as numerous state boat launch sites, historic sites, arboretums and park preserves; free golf at State Park golf courses; free swimming pool entrance at State Park pools, and discounted camping and cabin rentals at most State Park and DEC campgrounds.

To qualify for the pass, the veteran must be a resident of New York State and provide State Parks with written certification from the United States Veterans Administration or the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs that the applicant is a war veteran with a 40% or greater service connected disability as certified by the United States Veterans Administration, or who has at any time been awarded by the Federal government an allowance towards the purchase of an automobile or who is eligible for such an award.

**Note:** New York State veterans with disabilities who currently hold a valid Access Pass may continue to use their pass for its duration. Prior to expiration, the pass-holder will need to submit their Lifetime Liberty application, VA documentation, and a copy of their valid NYS driver's license or non-driver ID.

### **Individual Lifetime Liberty Pass:**

To apply for the Lifetime Liberty Pass, veterans should submit a Lifetime Liberty Pass Application, and indicate they are a Veteran using the Veterans Administration/Veterans Affairs certification. They will be issued their own distinctive Lifetime Liberty Pass.

For more information, contact 518-474-2324 during normal business hours or email: [accesspass@parks.ny.gov](mailto:accesspass@parks.ny.gov). Please allow 2-4 weeks for processing of this application.

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## **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 a Veterans 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 / Report of Separation) 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

Dear Veterans and Veteran Families:

The past several months has been busy and filled with important improvements in Rensselaer County. A number of county offices relocated from Troy to new offices at 99 Troy Road in East Greenbush. Included in the move is the county Veterans Service Agency office, located on the third floor at 99 Troy Road.

Also moving was the Hall of Heroes, an important monument to military service originally set up on the third floor of the County Office Building in downtown Troy. The Hall of Heroes has carefully been relocated to the second floor at 99 Troy Road, and includes information and displays regarding Medal of Honor recipients from Rensselaer County and a list of those recognized at the monthly Honor a Deceased Veteran ceremony.

The first Honor a Deceased Veteran ceremony was held in February and the plaque for those recognized in 2022 at the important ceremony was unveiled in early April. We were honored to be joined by family and friends of those honored, along with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, Congressman Paul Tonko, county lawmakers, local elected officials and former Vice Chair of the Legislature Thomas Walsh Sr., who led the effort to found the Hall of Heroes.

We encourage veterans and their families to visit our new offices at 99 Troy Road in East Greenbush and especially, to visit the Hall of Heroes. The Hall of Heroes is another reminder that Rensselaer County will never forget the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

In the meantime, enjoy spring!

Sincerely,

Steven F. McLaughlin

### 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, 99 Troy Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061*

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

## **Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act**

**The Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Act, signed into law on May 12, 2014, allows eligible Veteran business owners to get certified as a New York State Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business (SDVOB). The goal of the Act is to encourage and support eligible SDVOBs to play a greater role in the state's economy by increasing their participation in New York State's contracting opportunities. The OGS Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development is responsible for certifying eligible SDVOBs and assisting and promoting their participation in the state's procurement activities.**

**New York State maintains a six percent goal for participation on State contracts by Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses. To qualify as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business, the business must first be certified by New York State's Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development.**

**This certification process includes providing proof that the business meets the following criteria:**

- 1. One or more Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% must own at least 51% of the business.**
- 2. The Veteran(s) with the qualifying service-disability rating(s) must exercise authority to control independently the day-to-day business decisions.**
- 3. The business must qualify as a small business in New York State.**
- 4. The business must maintain a significant business presence in New York State.**

**To learn more, or to apply for certification as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business, contact the Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development, 32nd Floor, Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12242: Online: [ogs.ny.gov/veterans](https://ogs.ny.gov/veterans), by phone: [518-474-2015](tel:518-474-2015), or email: [VeteransDevelopment@ogs.ny.gov](mailto:VeteransDevelopment@ogs.ny.gov)**

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### Upcoming Events:

*Call us at (518) 270-2760 to have your event listed in the newsletter.*

May 8th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:

*The Plunkett Family*

May 25th... Melrose/Schaghticoke/Valley Falls/Johnsonville Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 7pm in Melrose

May 27th... East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10 am

May 28th... Rensselaer Memorial Day Parade, ceremony @ 1pm - step off @ 2 pm

May 29th... MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

May 29th... Sand Lake Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 10am

May 29th... Hoosick Falls Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am

May 29th... Castleton Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am

May 29th... Berlin Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11am

May 29th... Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade @ 11am

May 29th... North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 1:30 pm

May 29th... Nassau Memorial Day Ceremony @ 2pm