



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
County Executive

Kevin C. Miller, Jr.
Director

Vol. 18, Issue 4
Sept./Oct. 2023

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
Veterans Service Agency

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East Greenbush, NY 12061

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Www.rensco.com

NEW USS ALBANY MEMORIAL PARK

Fellow Veterans & Supporters,

The USS Albany Association & the City of Rensselaer, New York have entered into an agreement to provide a Memorial Park to honor all those that proudly served aboard any ship named Albany from 1846 to present.

Recently I met with another contractor to look at the Memorial Park project and he is very impressed and excited about taking on this project.

Realizing our funds are limited, the contractor is willing to work with us as we go through our public fundraising campaign.

The contractor selected is A-Z Landscaping Inc., Steve Noel, owner-operator and a Marine Corps Veteran.

The link to some of his work & projects:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/A-Z-Landscaping-INC/100057146032578/>

I have been working with the city of Rensselaer, New York, and they are very excited to have all the approvals in for this project. This includes all the necessary approvals by the required agencies, the common council and Mayor Michael Stammel.

As we are all aware, since the pandemic prices of everything have escalated to a point where I've been looking to downsize, renegotiate, or change requirements & specifications.

As we pursue public funding, we are looking for support from Electrical & lighting contractors, Vendors, Businesses, State Agencies, Rensselaer County, Veteran group, Military organizations, the general public and obviously all of the members of the USS Albany Association that have been extremely generous over time.

Currently the memorial fund has \$30,000 in the bank and we're still shy about another \$50 to 60,000 based on recent quotes & material cost to complete the project. However, I am confident that between the public, various state agencies, Veteran organizations & the USS Albany Association membership, we will be able to bring this to fruition.

The contractor and I have been making some modifications for cost-effective measures and he is confident that we can pull this together and have completed between the end of September / October 2023.

(Continued Page 2)

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:
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.

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The site location will be in the City of Rensselaer's Riverfront Park overlooking the Hudson River, the skyline of Albany NY, with the backdrop of the Memorial ship USS Slater DE-766.

Concept Drawing:



The benefactor contribution form will be placed on the USS Albany Website (www.ussalbany.org), as well as be distributed to the media.

The memorial stone & flagpoles have been ordered and meetings with state and county reps are scheduled.

I am extremely excited to offer this information and hope you are as well.

Shipmate,
Wayne V. Van Amburgh
Visit us @ www.ussalbany.org

New Memorial Park coming soon !

Upcoming Events:

September 11th...*PATRIOT DAY*

September 11th... Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:30a.m.,

John E. Dingman-USMC-Sgt.-Vietnam Era

September 11th...Melvin Roads A.L. Post #1231 Patriot Day Remembrance Ceremony at 12pm, 200 Columbia Tpk., Rensselaer, NY

September 21st...WREATHS across AMERICA Mobile Education Exhibit at Veterans Memorial Park in Stephentown , NY 11am—7pm

September 23-24...Eastern NY Benefit Tractor Pull 2023, benefits DAV Veterans at Schaghticoke Fair Grounds enybtppulling@gmail.com

October 9th...*COLUMBUS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED*

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

Richard E. Santspre-USA-SP5-Vietnam Era

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED A SALUTE TO VETERANS



24th ANNUAL VETERANS BREAKFAST
Sunday, November 5, 2023 8:00 am– 10:00 am



Free to all Veterans & Immediate Family Members at the
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

A Message From the County Executive

Rensselaer County is moving ahead with our work to modernize and improve county facilities, including services for our veterans. The county earlier this year opened new offices at 99 Troy Road in East Greenbush, including our Veteran Service Agency offices. The new VSA office location is accessible, there is considerable parking and we encourage you to visit.

Last September, we sadly lost our Veteran Service Agency Director Peter Goebel following a long illness. I am pleased to announce the appointment as Director of Kevin Miller, who served with the Army Infantry from 1999 to 2013, including Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008, where he was wounded. We are looking forward to working with Kevin to ensure a high level of service for our veterans and their families, and to expand outreach efforts to our veteran community.

Kevin has been active in veteran organizations and activities, helping secure benefits and vocational training for veterans. He has worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension to promote veteran farming, and started a Warriors Anonymous AA group for veterans, active duty and first responders. He has advocated for veterans to increase their VA rating and receive past benefits owed for service. Welcome aboard and good luck, Kevin!

Veterans may want to be aware of work to establish a new USS Albany Memorial Park. The park would be located in Rensselaer and honor anyone who served on any ship named Albany from 1846 to present. Learn more at www.ussalban.org.

Best wishes to all veterans and their families as we head into fall in Rensselaer County!

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 518-270-2760 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; DD-214/Report of Separation/ Report of Casualty 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 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

VETERANS HALL SCHAGHTICOKE FAIRGROUNDS

Veterans Hall Honors All Veterans Past and Present. This building is located on the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds and is comprised of a group of volunteers who feel passionate about thanking our veterans. Many have visited Veterans Hall during the fair or have come to an Open House to pay tribute to our veterans.

Everyone knows and loves a veteran, and many come to share that connection. Some come to see a picture, a clipping or perhaps an item donated by family or a friend of a veteran that served our country. In addition we are compiling a list of veteran's names from Rensselaer, Saratoga, Albany, Washington, and surrounding counties. Getting your veteran's name on the list is free, easy and a good way to ensure his/her service will be remembered. A form can be obtained by contacting Lorraine at 518-753-6936 or Jody 518-859-2988.

We also have a Buy a Brick Program to purchase engraved bricks to honor veterans for \$35.00. A form can be obtained by contacting Lorraine at 518-753-6936 or Jody at 518-859-2988. Thank you for your service!

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 RENSELAER COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY at (518) 270-2760