



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

Kevin C. Miller, Jr.
Director

VETERANS DAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

WE ARE PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALL VETERANS

You are cordially invited to dine with the Career and Technical Education students at the Robert H. Gibson Technical School

Turkey dinner with all the fixings as well as coffee and dessert prepared by Questar III's Culinary Arts Program.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

2 seatings: 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

**Questar III
Robert H. Gibson Technical School
35 Colleen Road, Troy, NY 12180**

For reservations please call 518-273-2264 ext. 4 or
e-mail Jen Scully at jennifer.scully@questar.org

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.



A Message From Our County Executive

Fall brings a significant change in the seasons and weather, and also brings us one of the most important days on our calendar. Veteran's Day is a day to remember all who have served, all who have sacrificed and all who gave greatly to defend our great nation.

Rensselaer County has vowed to never forget the service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families. The Veteran's Day holiday is important, and we are doing our best to recognize that service. At the new county offices at 99 Troy Road in East Greenbush, we are now constructing a memorial park in front of the building. The park will be visible to all traveling on State Route 4 past the new county offices, meaning all passing by will have the opportunity to reflect the enormous contributions of our veterans and their families. We look forward to welcoming all of you at an upcoming ceremony for the park.

On this Veteran's Day, we say thank you to our veterans who answered the call to duty, provided valuable service and saved our nation's security and freedom. Thank you also to the families of veterans who also served and sacrificed.

We are also seeing more veteran banners being placed around the county and we welcome those municipalities who are participating and the volunteers who are helping make the program a reality.

Service continues at our new Veteran Service Agency office, with new Director Kevin Miller recently hosting an Open House for veterans. A movie night was also scheduled by Kevin and more outreach is planned. We look forward to doing more to reach out and serve our veterans.

Steven F. McLaughlin

Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery

Veteran's Eve Candlelight Vigil Ceremony

The Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery will hold a Veteran's Eve Candlelight Vigil to honor all Veterans on Friday, November 10th at 4:00pm at the cemetery at 200 Duell Road, Schuylerville.

The first Veteran's Day Ceremony held at Saratoga National Cemetery 25 years ago was a candlelight event with guest speaker, Captain Dave Wallingford, USMC. To celebrate this historical milestone this year's ceremony will again be held by candlelight with attendees being given a white glow stick and be presided over by Captain Dave Wallingford, USMC Veteran.

The Vigil will take place at the flagpole assembly area and is an outside event regardless of the weather conditions, so please dress accordingly. Parking is adjacent to the assembly area for ease of access.

Everyone is invited to attend, including children, to honor and thank all our Veterans.

Saratoga National Cemetery Announces Wreaths Across America 2023

The Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery announces its 2023 Wreaths Across America program has begun.

For the past 7 years, our many surrounding communities have made sure every Veteran gravesite at Saratoga National has been honored with holiday wreath laid by a special pair of volunteer hands and respect. The support for our Veterans and this program is overwhelming.

This year our goal is 15,100 wreaths. To sponsor a wreath at Saratoga National Cemetery, please log onto <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>, click 'About' in upper left corner, a subpage will drop down. Go to 'Location and Search Group', type in NYGSNS, the SNC link will appear, click view and the cemetery homepage will open.

Deadline to sponsor wreaths is Tuesday, November 28th. National Wreath Laying Day will be held on Saturday, December 16th, at 11:00 am with a ceremony following at Noon.

Upcoming Events...



Call our office to inquiry about listing your event

November 5th....24th Annual Free Veterans Breakfast at Melvin Roads American Legion, 8am-10am

November 7th...Election Day—OFFICE CLOSED

November 8th....Free Luncheon at Questar III (RHGTS) 35 Colleen Rd., Troy, two seatings: 11am and 12:15pm, call 518-273-2264 ext. 4 or e-mail Jen Scully at jennifer.scully@questar.org

November 10th...Veterans Day Observed—OFFICE CLOSED

November 10th...Veteran's Eve Candlelight Vigil at Saratoga National Cemetery at 4 p.m.

November 11th...Annual Memory Walk in Troy, 9am at Monument Square

November 11th...Veterans Day Ceremony at Melvin Roads American Legion Post at 1pm.

November 11th...Free car wash at Hoffman's Car Wash (all locations)

November 12th...Brunswick Elks Veterans Appreciation Lunch, call 518-258-2178 or 518-286-1645

November 13th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:15am,

Richard L. Butterfield-US Army-Col.-Vietnam & Persian Gulf

November 23rd&24th...Thanksgiving and Day After Thanksgiving—OFFICE CLOSED

December 7th...Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 11th...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am,

Roger W. Hogle—US Army— SP4-Vietnam Era

Did you know some Veterans and their family members have access to VA-covered care through several special programs such as the Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA (CHAMPVA)?

More than 700,000 beneficiaries (spouses and children) are eligible to receive specific types of care and services through four family member-focused VA programs:

- CHAMPVA
- Camp LeJeune Family Member Program (CLFMP)
- Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV)
- Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program (SBHCBP).

There are many Veterans and eligible beneficiaries who are not taking advantage of these services that are covered by VA. To get access, you first need to determine if you are eligible for one of the programs.

The four health care benefit programs for Veterans' family members and dependents (beneficiaries) are based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements.

Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA (CHAMPVA)

What: VA shares the cost of covered health care services for those who are eligible under this program.

Who is eligible for CHAMPVA? A spouse, children of a Veteran, or surviving beneficiaries of a Veteran who is rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability or who was at the time of death eligible for CHAMPVA. Find out more about the program, CHAMPVA eligibility: https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/champva/champva_eligibility.asp

How to apply: Complete and mail in the CHAMPVA application form: <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-10d/> and Other Health Insurance certification form: <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-7959c/>. If you have Medicare, send a copy of your Medicare card. At this time VFMP cannot take electronic form submissions. Check back on the How to Apply for CHAMPVA webpage: https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/champva/champva_apply.asp

Mail forms to: VHA Office of Integrated Veteran Care
CHAMPVA Eligibility
PO Box 469028
Denver, CO 80246-9063

CHAMPVA Help Line: 800-733-8387, open 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. For more information on CHAMPVA visit the CHAMPVA website: <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/champva/index.asp>

Camp Lejeune Family Member Program (CLFMP)

What: VA shares the cost of covered health care services for certain conditions for family members of Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, Aug. 1, 1953, through Dec. 31, 1987, and exposed to contaminated drinking water.

Who is eligible for CLFMP: Family members (spouse or dependent) of Veterans who lived or served at the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987, and were potentially exposed to contaminated drinking water. You must have lived at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more during this time.

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How to apply: Apply online at clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov (select “Start New Application for Family Member” near the bottom of the page) or fill out the CLFMP application form ([VA Form 10-100068](#)). If filling out a paper application, you can fax it to: (512) 460-5536.

Mail forms to: Department of Veterans Affairs
Financial Services Center
PO BOX 149200
Austin, TX 78714-9200

For questions about the applications, call 866-372-1144. For more information on CLFMP: Visit the Camp Lejeune Family Member Program webpage: <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov/>

Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Health Care Benefits Program (CWVV)

What: VA provides health care benefits to biological children of women Vietnam Veterans who the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) determined have a covered birth defect. The CWVV is not a comprehensive health care plan. This program pays for health care services necessary for treating those with a covered birth defect and associated medical conditions.

Who is eligible for CWVV: Children whose biological mother is a Vietnam Veteran and who were conceived after the date the Veteran entered the Republic of Vietnam (period beginning Feb. 28, 1961, and ending May 7, 1975), and who have one of the covered birth defects as determined by VBA.

How to apply: Complete [VA Form 21-0304](#), and supply medical evidence such as medical records from your doctor, along with a copy of your birth certificate showing both parents and proof of service in Vietnam.

Mail all documents to: Department of Veterans Affairs
Evidence Intake Center
P.O. Box 4444
Janesville, WI 53547-4444

For eligibility questions, call 303-914-2900. For more information on CWVV: Visit the CWVV webpage <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/cwvv/index.asp>

Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program (SBHCBP)

Overview: VA provides monetary allowances, vocational training and rehabilitation, and VA-financed health care benefits to certain Korea and Vietnam Veterans’ birth children who have been diagnosed with spina bifida.

How to apply: Contact the Denver VA Regional Office at 303-914-2900 or by email: [BDEFECTS.VBADEN @va.gov](mailto:BDEFECTS.VBADEN@va.gov)

Who is eligible for SBHCBP: Children of a Vietnam or Korean War era Veteran who have been diagnosed with spina bifida.

For more information on SBHCBP: Visit the Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program (SBHCBP) webpage: <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/spinabifida/index.asp>