



Rensselaer County
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Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

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Director

SERVED IN WORLD WAR II? WWII VETERANS SHOULD APPLY NOW FOR VA HEALTH CARE By Hans Petersen, VHA NEWS Editor and Air Force Veteran

If you served in the U.S. military between Dec. 7, 1941, and Dec. 31, 1946, a new law makes you eligible for VA health care benefits, but you have to apply because VA cannot automatically enroll you.

Van Transportation...

- * *Don't drive* and need to get to the Stratton 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.



The Cleland-Dole Act was signed into law Dec. 29, 2022. Section 101 of this law expands eligibility for VA care for Veterans of World War II. If you served during World War II, now is the time to apply for VA health care, even if you applied before and were not approved due to your income level.

VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

- Medical care rated among the best in the United States
- Immediate benefits of health care coverage
- Exemption from copayments for inpatient and outpatient care
- Enrollment satisfies the Affordable Care Act's requirement to have health care coverage
- No enrollment fees, monthly premiums or deductibles
- Low or no out-of-pocket costs
- Eligibility for VA Community Care
- When enrolled in VA health care, you can use your private providers, Medicare and other health insurance to meet your care needs.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

DIAL 988
PRESS 1

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.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

APPLY TODAY

- Apply online (<https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/>)
- Call VA's toll-free hotline at 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411).
- Visit your nearest VA medical center or clinic.
- Call 800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411) to speak to a customer service representative, get answers to your questions and start the VA enrollment process. There are many ways to apply for VA benefits (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/Applying.asp>), depending on the type of benefit you seek.
- Now is the time to enroll in VA health care benefits, even if you previously applied and were not approved.

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WWII VETERANS' NEW ELIGIBILITY FOR VA HEALTH CARE

If you served in World War II and are not currently enrolled in VA health care, this recent legislation ensures that you are now eligible for VA health care. WWII is defined as the period beginning Dec. 7, 1941, and ending Dec. 31, 1946.

Apply today, even if you applied before and your application was not approved. Income level and service length do not matter.

WWII Veterans will be at minimum in Priority Group 6 (<https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/priority-groups/>). You could be in a higher priority group if you have other eligibilities. Even if you were deferred before, please consider applying again. Please note, you must apply for VA health care (<https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/>) if you are not currently enrolled. VA cannot automatically enroll you in VA care.

MORE DETAILS ABOUT VA HEALTH CARE:

VA health care benefits: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/>

Geriatric and extended care: <https://www.va.gov/Geriatrics/>

VA nursing homes/assisted living: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/long-term-care/>

Cost of care: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/cost-of-care/>

Copay rates: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/copay-rates/>

This new eligibility is just one part of the Joseph Maxwell Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022. This law requires VA to expand eligibility, establish pilot programs, ensure the quality of care and access to care, conduct a feasibility analysis for program expansion and other actions.

Apply today and get the VA health care benefits you earned and deserve.

Upcoming Events:



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

February 12th...Honor-A-Deceased Veterans Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:15am,

Pasquale F. Cancilla—US Navy—Y3c— WWII

February 19th...Presidents Day—OFFICE CLOSED

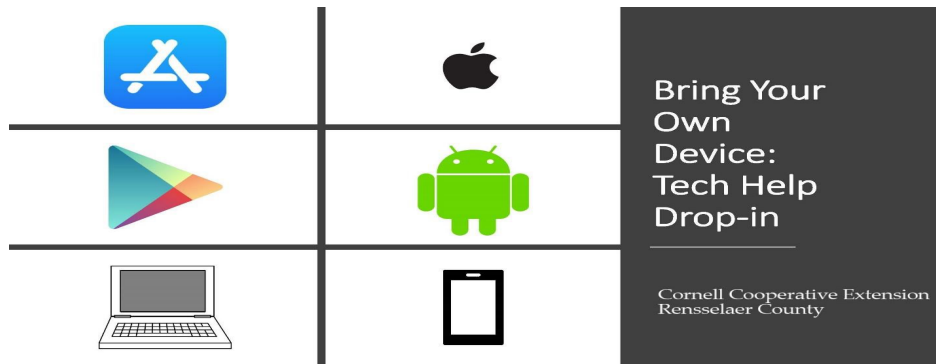
March 11th...Honor-A-Deceased Veterans Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:15am,

Joseph F. Moore—US Army—PFC—WWII

April 8th...Honor-A-Deceased Veterans Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:15am,

Thomas W. Killian— US Navy—SP1-Vietnam

Cornell Cooperative Extension Rensselaer County SENIOR VETERANS & SPOUSES



Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Tech Help

Our resource educator will provide personalized assistance to help you get the most out of your cell phone, laptop, or tablet.

Sessions are held at our office and are open to adults of all ages. We only ask for a donation to support our cause.

Call Michelle today to book your free consultation and unlock the full potential of your devices!

Sign Up Today!

Call: Michelle St. Louis

Phone: (518) 272 – 4210 Ext. 108

Email: ms3756@cornell.edu

Date: Monday, March 18th 2024

Time: 10:30AM – 11:30AM

Place: 99 Troy Road, Suite 203
East Greenbush, NY 12061

Check out CCE Events: <https://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/events>

A Message from the County Veterans Director

Happy New Year, My Fellow Veterans! My name is Kevin C. Miller Jr, and I am the new Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency Director. I served 15 years in the Army as an 11H, B & 63B. I deployed to NYC for 9-11, and I was also deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 for Operation Enduring Freedom, OEF-7.

In 2013, I was medically retired. After being severely injured overseas, losing my leg and having PTSD to deal with as well. I was not sure of my life, to say the least. After years of hard work and dealing with my own struggles, I decided that my goal in life was to help Veterans. No matter what they needed or how big/small it may be, I wanted to help. I also have my friend with me all the time, his name is “Billy” and he is my service dog.

After struggling with alcohol, PTSD and my own demons, I started *Warriors Anonymous* AA meeting, the first of its kind in NYS. This meeting is open to Military, Veterans and First Responders.

If you or another Veteran needs help, please reach out. 22 is 22 too many. We are here to serve, those who served.

Kevin C. Miller Jr.

VA IS WITH YOU WHEN YOU TRAVEL OR RELOCATE

December 11, 2023 By Shane Suzuki, Communications Specialist, VA Office of Clinical Services

If you plan on traveling or relocating this year, with some planning, VA will be with you every mile of the way.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care receive the same standard of care while traveling as they would at home. It's as simple as coordinating with your VA health care team to ensure you have a plan before you leave.

Notify your VA care team

Temporarily relocated Veterans should notify their VA Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) or specialty care provider/team of the travel destination, temporary address, dates of travel and contact phone number. They should also provide any specific health care questions.

A traveling Veteran coordinator ensures care is coordinated per your provider's request via the traveling/relocating Veteran consult. This consult helps register you at the new VA and provides a handoff to your new facility. The traveling Veteran coordinators at both sites will work to ensure your care needs are ordered locally and scheduling occurs timely.

Discussing current prescriptions and the plan for getting refills is also essential when talking with your health care team before travel.

All VA medical centers have a Traveling Veteran Coordinator. Notifying your health care team 4-6 weeks before travel is highly recommended to ensure seamless care, particularly if you need medication refills or regular medical appointments.

Resources for traveling Veterans

Use of Secure Messaging within the Home – My HealtheVet – My HealtheVet (va.gov) (<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/home>) portal is an easy and additional way for traveling Veterans to access care from their assigned VA health care team.

Need emergency care while traveling? Be ready for anything and learn about VA's emergency medical care program (<https://www.va.gov/resources/getting-emergency-care-at-non-va-facilities/>).

Find a VA facility here (<https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>)

Veterans are encouraged to contact the Foreign Medical Program (<https://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/veterans/fmp/index.asp>) when traveling outside of the U.S. and U.S. territories.

Also, don't forget to update your address on file if your mailing address is changing. Updates can be done in minutes online on VA.gov (<https://www.va.gov/change-address/>).

While traveling, take advantage of the United States' 400+ National Parks. Disabled Veterans are eligible for a free National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass (<https://news.va.gov/110751/free-lifetime-pass-to-national-parks/>).

Emergency preparedness resources to assist Veterans before, during and after an emergency can be found here: Veterans & Emergency Management – VHA Office of Emergency Management (va.gov) (<https://www.va.gov/VHAEMERGENCYMANAGEMENT/veterans/index.asp>).

Get more information on seamless care for traveling Veterans (<https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/where-you-go-for-care/>).