



Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
Veterans Service Agency

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RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

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STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
County Executive

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Director

Lifetime Liberty Pass

The Lifetime Liberty Pass allows qualified New York State Veterans or Gold Star Parents, Spouses, and Children, a discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NY State Parks) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Once issued, the Lifetime Liberty Pass will never expire.

The Lifetime Liberty Pass benefits include free vehicle entry to most state-operated parks and DEC-operated day-use areas, as well as numerous state-operated boat launch sites, historic sites, arboretums, and park preserves; free greens fees at state-operated golf courses; free swimming pool entrance at State Park pools; and discounted camping and cabin rentals at most State Park and DEC campgrounds. The pass holder must be present when utilizing the pass for its intended benefits.

The Lifetime Liberty Pass is not valid for amenities, including some services or locations operated by concessionaires or partners.

Eligibility:

NY State residents listed below are eligible for Lifetime Liberty Pass benefits.

NY State Veteran

- A resident of NY State who is a Veteran, as such term is defined in section one of the Veterans' services law.
- A resident of NY State who has served on active duty for the state as a member of the state organized militia as defined in subdivision nine of section one of the military law and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.
- A resident of NY State who has served on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States or on active duty for the state as a member of the organized militia and has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the Veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service.
- A resident of NY State who is a discharged LGBT Veteran, as defined in section one of the Veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service.

How To Apply as a Veteran

A NYS Department of Motor Vehicles photo (ID) with Veteran status designation can be used at all staffed facilities without a Lifetime Liberty Pass. Simply present your ID to NY State Parks staff. (Cont'd 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 518-270-2760



VETERANS CRISIS LINE

DIAL 988
PRESS #1

Confidential chat at 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.

(Continued Page 1)

If you intend to visit unstaffed locations, a No-Fee ticket can be obtained at the Park Office, or order a free Lifetime Liberty Pass to ensure seamless entry. Need to add the Veteran status designation to your ID? Visit the NY State DMV website for more information.

If you do not have the Veteran status designation, place an order for a free Lifetime Liberty Pass to ensure seamless entry: <https://shop.parks.ny.gov/store/liberty-pass/lifetime-liberty-pass>

After placing your order, follow the directions in your order summary email to submit one of the following indicating an honorable discharge:

- A copy of your NY State DMV ID with Veteran status designation
- DD-214
- DD-215
- NGB Form 22
- WD AGO 53, 55 or 53-55
- NAVPERS 553
- NAVMC 78PD
- NAVCG553
- NA Form 13038

How To Apply as a Gold Star Parent, Spouse, or Child

If you are a Gold Star Parent, Spouse, or Child, place an order seamless entry at state-operated park locations: <https://shop.parks.ny.gov/store/liberty-pass/lifetime-liberty-pass>

After placing your order, follow the directions in your order summary email to submit one of the following documents:

- DD-1300 (Report of Casualty)
- Copy of a U.S Department of Defense telegram notifying the parent of their loss.

For questions, please email LifetimeLibertyPass@parks.ny.gov with details regarding your inquiry.

If you are unable to email, please call 518-474-2324 and leave a message with your name, phone number and reason for your call. Calls will be answered in the order calls are received. This may take up to 2 business days, depending on call volume.

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

988 FAQ



What is 988?



988 is the new three-digit number that connects people to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. **This service is for anyone who is:**

- suicidal
- experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis
- experiencing any kind of emotional distress

988 is more than just a number. It is a direct connection to compassionate and accessible care. When you call, text, or chat 988 you are connected to trained counselors that are part of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network. Moving to 988 does not mean the 1-800-273-8255 number goes away. Using either number will get people to the same services.

Why do we need 988?



Mental health is just as important as physical health. Now there is a three-digit number for mental health emergencies that's easy to remember! **988 helps New York:**

- Connect with people who are struggling with behavioral health (mental health and/or substance use) concerns as soon as possible, 24/7.
- Reduce unnecessary use of law enforcement and other safety resources in crisis responses.
- Meet the growing need for crisis intervention where it's needed most.
- Shift the mindset about people who struggle with their mental health.
- Reduce healthcare spending with more cost-effective early intervention.

Will services be offered in other languages?



The Lifeline currently provides live crisis center phone services in English and Spanish and uses Language Line Solutions to provide translation services in over 150 additional languages.

Chat and text currently available only in English.

Does it cost money to use 988?

Contacting 988 is a free service.

Who can contact 988?



988 is for everyone and it's more than a 'suicide' line. **Contact 988 if you are:**

- suicidal
- experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis
- experiencing any kind of emotional distress
- worried about someone in distress.

988 is for people of all ages, genders, sexes, ethnicities, races, religions, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses. If you are a Veteran or Spanish speaker, 988 has dedicated lines for you.

What happens when I contact 988?



When contacting 988, you will first be routed to a local Lifeline crisis center based on your area code. A trained crisis counselor will answer and listen to how your problem is affecting you. They then provide support and share resources if needed. If a local crisis center is unable to take the call, you will be automatically routed to a national backup crisis center. All contact with 988 is voluntary.

What is the difference between 988 and 911?



988 provides easy access to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network and related crisis resources. This is different from 911, where the focus is on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire, and police as needed. The goal of 988 is to meet the growing suicide and mental health-related crisis care needs.

Learn more about 988:



To request translations of this document:



A Message from the County Veterans Director

As Memorial Day approaches, let us take time to remember the true meaning of this day. On Memorial Day we remember and honor the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice, while protecting our freedoms and rights in the United States Military. Let us also recognize the Gold Star families that raised such heroes. Thank You.

The Veterans Office is pleased to announce another Open House on Wednesday, June 5th, from 4:30 to 6pm at 99 Troy Rd., East Greenbush. Please stop in to speak about your veteran benefits, learn about veteran opportunities, ask questions, speak about problems you may be having, or just get some Free Military branch swag.

If you or another Veteran needs help, Please Reach Out. We are here to serve those who served, 22 is 22 too many.

Kevin C. Miller Jr

Upcoming Events:

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

- May 13th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:
Carmen Ciccarelli, US Army-SSgt-KIA WWII and Frank Ciccarelli, US Army-Cpt-WWII
- May 23rd... Melrose,/Schaghticoke/Valley Falls/Johnsonville Memorial Day Parade,
Line-up @ 6:15pm on Knickerbocker Rd., step off @ 7pm in Hemstreet Park
- May 24th..Lansingburgh Veterans flag placement at 8am at St. John's Cemetery, volunteers needed
- May 25th...Lansingburgh Veterans flag placement at 9am Oakwood Cemetery's Soldiers Plot
- May 25th... East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10 am
- May 26th... Rensselaer Memorial Day Ceremony @ 1pm, Parade step off @ 2 pm
- May 27th... MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED
- May 27th... Sand Lake Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 10am
- May 27th... Hoosick Falls Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am
- May 27th... Castleton Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am
- May 27th... Berlin Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11am
- May 27th... Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade @ 11am
- May 27th... North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 1:30 pm
- May 27th... Nassau Memorial Day Parade @ 2pm
- June 5th... Rensselaer County Veterans Open House 4:30-6pm
- June 10th... Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:
Kelly Brothers-James, Francis, William, Donald, Charles, Robert, and George
- June 13th...*Veterans Night at The Joe* at 6:30pm, for info/tickets visit
www.tcvalleycats.com or call 518-629-2287