



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
County Executive

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Peter K. Goebel
Director

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
Veterans Service Agency
1600 Seventh Avenue
Troy, NY 12180
Phone: (518) 270-2760
FAX: (518) 270-2956
www.rensco.com

Veterans Headstones, Military Markers and Medallions

Eligibility requirements for headstone or marker:

Veterans and active-duty service members

A Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge or a service member who died while on active duty may be eligible for a headstone or marker if they meet the requirements listed below specific to when they served.

Enlisted personnel who served before September 7, 1980, and officers who served before October 16, 1981

At least one of these must be true. The Veteran or service member:

- Died on or after November 1, 1990, and their grave is currently marked with a privately purchased headstone, *or*
- Was buried in an unmarked grave, anywhere in the world

Note: If the Veteran or service member served before World War I, the VA requires detailed documents, like muster rolls, extracts from state files, or the military or state organization where they served.

Enlisted personnel who served after September 7, 1980, and officers who served after October 16, 1981

At least one of these must be true. The Veteran or service member:

- Died on or after November 1, 1990, and their grave is currently marked with a privately purchased headstone, *or*
- Was buried in an unmarked grave, anywhere in the world;

And at least one of these must also be true. The Veteran or service member:

- Served for a minimum of 24 months of continuous active duty, *or*
- Died while serving on active duty

Note: Hmong individuals who were living in the U.S. when they died are eligible if they were naturalized under the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act of 2000 and died on or after March 23, 2018.

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Van Transportation...

- * Don't drive and need to get to the VA Medical Center or the Troy VA Clinic?
- * We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC and Clinic for *most morning* medical appointments.

For more details please call 270-2760.



VETERANS CRISIS LINE

1-800-273-8255
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.

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National Guard members and Reservists

A National Guard member or Reservist may be eligible for a headstone or marker if they meet any of the requirements listed below specific to their type of service.

National Guard members

At least one of these must be true. The National Guard member:

- Was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death or would have been entitled if they were over 60 years old, *or*
- Served in a federal status and for the period of time they were called to serve

Reservists

At least one of these must be true. The Reservist:

- Was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death or would have been entitled if they were over 60 years old, *or*
- Was called to active duty for purposes other than training

Note: National Guard members or Reservists who have only limited active-duty service for training aren't eligible in most cases. They may be eligible in certain situations, such as if they died during or as the result of the training.

Spouses and other family members

An eligible spouse or other family member buried in a national cemetery, state or tribal Veterans cemetery, military post cemetery, or military base cemetery may be eligible for a headstone or marker. They may still be eligible even if they die before the Veteran.

Spouses and family members buried in a private cemetery aren't eligible for these memorial items.

In most cases, we provide one gravesite and a single headstone for all eligible family members. When 2 Veterans are married, we'll provide 2 side-by-side gravesites and 2 headstones or markers if requested.

Eligibility requirements for a medallion:

Veterans and active-duty service members

A Veteran who didn't receive a dishonorable discharge or a service member who died while on active duty may be eligible for a medallion if they meet the requirements listed below specific to when they served.

We provide 2 types of medallions. Veterans and service members may be eligible for a bronze medallion. If they've received a Medal of Honor, they may also be eligible for a Medal of Honor medallion.

Officers who served before October 16, 1981, and enlisted personnel who served before September 7, 1980

Both of these must be true. The Veteran or service member:

- Served for at least 1 day of active duty on or after April 6, 1917, *and*
- Is buried in a private cemetery marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker

Officers who served after October 16, 1981, and enlisted personnel who served after September 7, 1980

Both of these must be true. The Veteran or service member:

- Served for a minimum of 24 months of continuous active duty, *and*
- Is buried in a private cemetery marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker

Note: Any service member who died while serving on active duty is eligible, regardless of when they served.

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National Guard members and Reservists

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We provide 2 types of medallions. National Guard members and Reservists may be eligible for a bronze medallion. If they've received a Medal of Honor, they may also be eligible for a Medal of Honor medallion.

National Guard members

At least one of these must be true. The National Guard member:

- Was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death (or would have been entitled if they were over 60 years old), *or*
- Served in a federal status and for the period of time they were called to serve

Reservists

At least one of these must be true. The Reservist:

- Was entitled to retirement pay at their time of death (or would have been entitled if they were over 60 years old), *or*
- Was called to active duty for purposes other than training

Note: National Guard members or Reservists who have only limited active-duty service for training aren't eligible in most cases. They may be eligible in certain situations, such as if they died during or as the result of the training.

Commissioned Officers

A commissioned officer may be eligible for a medallion to be attached to a headstone or marker that was purchased at their or another person's private expense. The officer may be eligible if they served in active Public Health Service on or after April 6, 1917.

Note: Spouses and dependents aren't eligible for a medallion.

Who can apply for one of these memorial items:

In most cases, you can apply for one of these memorial items if you're representing the deceased Veteran, service member, or family member in any of the below relationships or professional roles.

One of these must describe your relationship to the deceased:

- A family member, *or*
- A personal representative (someone who officially represents the deceased), *or*
- A representative of an accredited Veterans Service Organization, *or*
- An employee of a state or local government whose official responsibilities include serving Veterans, *or*
- Any person who's legally responsible for making arrangements for unclaimed remains or for details having to do with the deceased's interment or memorialization, *or*
- Any individual representing the deceased, if the Veteran's service ended before April 6, 1917

You must be a member of the deceased's family to apply for a memorial item if any of the below descriptions is true. The deceased's remains:

- Haven't been recovered or identified, *or*
- Were buried at sea, *or*
- Were donated to science, *or*
- Were cremated and scattered

Please contact our office at (518) 270-2760 for an application for a memorial item.

A Message from the County Executive

Summer brings better weather, time outside with family and friends, trips and vacations, and a chance to relax after a long winter. A decline in COVID-19 cases has made this summer even more welcome across our county and state after long months.

The summer also brings one of the most important dates on our calendar, July 4. Independence Day is a reminder of our liberty and freedom, and the enormous cost of that freedom by those who fought and defended our nation.

Many from Rensselaer County fought to help secure our independence and many since then have defended our security and liberty. We thank and remember those who have answered the call to duty, and made a difference while standing on the frontlines of freedom. We also recognize the families of those veterans who also gave greatly to the cause. Rensselaer County will never forget!

As part of that obligation to our veterans and their families, Rensselaer County stands ready to serve you during the summer and beyond. The county is continuing to offer vaccinations conveniently, including through our Vax Bus, a mobile vaccination clinic, at summer concerts, community events and ValleyCats ball games. Our Veteran Service Agency stands ready to assist and my office is always open to you and your family. We hope you enjoy the summer and look forward to the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Steven F. McLaughlin

Upcoming Events:



Call us by the 15th of the month and we will list your event.

July 24th...Upstate New York Wounded Vet Run (Rain or Shine), registration starts at 9am at Brunswick Harley, 1130 Hoosick Rd., Troy and ends at Wicked Eatery, 1602 U.S. 9, Clifton Park. For more info: upstatenywvr@gmail.com or 518-720-7111.

August 9th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony-County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am: John R. Reitano– USN, S1c –WWII

August 27th...Veterans of Lansingburgh 75th Anniversary Golf Outing at Frear Park Golf Course. Four-Man/Best Ball Scramble, limited to 18 Foursomes. \$90.00 per person/\$360 Foursome. 7a.m. Registration and 8a.m. Shotgun Start. For more information please call Ned Dougherty at 518-378-9542.

September 1st-6th...Schaghticoke Fair

September 6th... Labor Day-**OFFICE CLOSED**

September 13th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony-County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am: Arthur T. Judge– USA, Sgt. – WWII