



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

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County Executive

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Director

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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

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 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.

Health Issues Related to Camp Lejeune Water Contamination

If you served at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune or Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River in North Carolina, you may have had contact with contaminants in the drinking water there. Scientific and medical evidence has shown an association between exposure to these contaminants during military service and development of certain diseases later on. If you have qualifying service at Camp Lejeune and a current diagnosis of one of the conditions listed below, you may be able to get disability benefits.

Can I get disability benefits from VA?

You may be able to get disability benefits if you meet all of the requirements listed below.

Both of these must be true. You:

- Served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River for at least 30 cumulative days from August 1953 through December 1987, *and*
- Didn't receive a dishonorable discharge when you separated from the military

And you must have a diagnosis of one or more of these presumptive conditions:

- Adult leukemia
- Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Liver cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

Who's covered?

- Veterans
- Reservists
- Guardsmen

(Cont'd Page 2)

Health Issues Related to Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Cont'd

What kind of benefits can I get?

- Health care
- Compensation (payments)

How do I get these benefits?

You'll need to file a claim for disability compensation and provide the evidence (supporting documents) listed below:

- Your military records showing you served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River for at least 30 days from August 1953 through December 1987 while on active duty, or in the National Guard or Reserves, and
- Medical records stating that you have one or more of the 8 illnesses on the presumptive conditions list (see Page 1).

Are Veterans and their family members covered for health care?

Yes. Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River for at least 30 cumulative days from August 1953 through December 1987—and their family members—can get health care benefits. We may pay you back for your out-of-pocket health care costs that were related to any of these 15 conditions:

- Bladder cancer
- Breast cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Female infertility
- Hepatic steatosis
- Kidney cancer
- Leukemia
- Lung cancer
- Miscarriage
- Multiple myeloma
- Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Neurobehavioral effects
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Renal toxicity
- Scleroderma

How do I get these benefits as a family member?

You'll need to file a claim for disability compensation and provide the evidence (supporting documents) listed below:

- A document proving your relationship to the Veteran who served on active duty for at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune (like a marriage license, birth certificate, or adoption papers), and
- A document proving that you lived at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River for at least 30 days from August 1953 through December 1987 (like utility bills, base housing records, military orders, or tax forms), and
- Medical records that show you have one of the 15 conditions listed above (as well as the date the illness was diagnosed and that you're being treated or have been treated in the past for this illness).

Health Issues Related to Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Cont'd

And you must provide evidence that you paid health care expenses for your claimed condition during one of these time periods:

- Between January 1, 1957, and December 31, 1987 (if you lived on Camp Lejeune during this time period, we'll reimburse you for care received on or after August 6, 2012 and up to 2 years before the date of your application), or
- Between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1956 (if you lived on Camp Lejeune during this time period, we'll reimburse you for care received on or after December 16, 2014 and up to 2 years before the date you apply for benefits)

You may also want to provide a Camp Lejeune Family Member Program Treating Physician Report (VA Form 10-10068b). You'll need to ask your doctor to fill out and sign this form before submitting it. The form is not required, but it can help to provide important information to determine your eligibility for benefits.

What was in the drinking water?

Two on-base water wells that were shut down in 1985 had these chemicals:

- Trichloroethylene (TCE)
- Perchloroethylene (PCE)
- Benzene
- Vinyl chloride
- Other compounds

Please call our office at (518) 270-2760 for more information on how to file a claim.

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

A Message from the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency Director

This May the remains of Korean War MIA Clifford Johnson will be returning to Valatie, New York. Please remember his family and the families of all our MIAs until they all return home.

Four months into 2021 have proven interesting. But we will persevere. We shall move ourselves, our families, and friends and fellow citizens upward.

Please keep an eye out on the less fortunate, especially other Veterans who need your assistance. Remember to find those deceased Veterans that we will be able to honor when we are able to again. Our Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremonies have been postponed due to COVID-19, but the program will return and with your assistance, it will be even better. Get those deceased Veteran biographies into the Committee. Get the names of those living Veterans to our Rensselaer County Legislators so that the Legislature can honor our living Veterans. Contact them at (518) 270-2880 or email them at Rensselaercounty.org. This does not take much time and is very appreciated.

We should work on assisting our Veterans and showing our appreciation to them. Our posts have had a difficult 2020. Vow to help them and vow to help other Veterans. Please continue to join our wonderful local Veterans Service Organizations and Posts to continue to help other Veterans less fortunate than you. Let's all keep working to make our great Rensselaer County—the greatest County in New York State—even greater than it already is.

Remember to take the time now to obtain your Lifetime Liberty Pass from New York State (40% or greater service-connected disability rating) and don't forget to take your DD-214 to County Clerk Frank Merola to obtain your Rensselaer County Return-the-Favor Discount Card. Remember to utilize those great businesses who offer their discounts to our Veterans.

Thank you all for what you do for Veterans. Help all you can. Find your niche! Find those In-Country RVN Veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange to claim their Diagnosed Illness.

Remember to get out and honor our Veterans during Memorial Day!

Yours in Patriotism,

Peter K. Goebel

Upcoming Events:



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

May 29th... East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10 am

May 30th... Rensselaer Memorial Day Parade, ceremony @ 1pm - step off @ 2 pm

May 31st... MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

May 31st... Sand Lake Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 10am

May 31st... Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade @ 11am

June 6th... D-Day

June 14th...Flag Day

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.