



Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1
February 2017

KATHLEEN M. JIMINO
County Executive

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

PENSION

FOR VETERANS:

SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME FOR WARTIME VETERANS

VA helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans Pension benefit. Veterans Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans.

ELIGIBILITY

Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.

In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be:

- Age 65 or older, OR
- Totally and permanently disabled, OR
- A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, OR
- Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, OR
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income

Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Veterans Pension benefit. Learn more about income and net worth limitation, and see an example of how VA calculates the VA Pension benefit.

ADDITIONAL PENSION ALLOWANCES

Veterans or surviving spouses who are eligible for VA pension and are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person may be eligible for an additional monetary payment.

(Continued Page 2)

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.



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

PENSION (Continued from Page 1)

FOR SURVIVORS:

The Survivors Pension benefit, which may also be referred to as Death Pension, is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to a low-income, un-remarried surviving spouse and/or unmarried child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service.

Eligibility

The deceased Veteran must have met the following service requirements:

- For service on or before September 7, 1980, the Veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, with at least one day during a war time period.
- If he or she entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally he or she must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty with at least one day during a war time period.
- Was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions.

Survivors Pension is also based on your yearly family income, which must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify.

While an un-remarried spouse is eligible at any age, a child of a deceased wartime Veteran must be:

- Under 18, OR
 - Under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, OR
 - Permanently incapable of self-support due to a disability before age 18
- Your yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Survivors Pension.

A Message From Rensselaer County Executive Kathleen M. Jimino.....

I hope you find the information contained in the monthly Veterans Newsletters helpful. We in Rensselaer County take a great deal of pride in the programs and services available to help support our Veterans who have through their service defended the freedoms we hold so dear.

To ensure that you are receiving all of the benefits you are entitled to as a result of your service to our nation or the service of your spouse I urge you to check in with our Veterans Service Agency from time to time.

Thank you again for your service!

Sincerely,



Kathy Jimino



Are you interested in a rewarding and meaningful career with New York State?

Sign Up for the Professional Career Opportunities Exam!

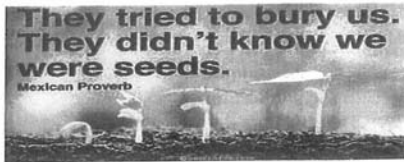
The Professional Career Opportunities (PCO) exam is one exam that fills more than 100 different entry-level professional job types across a wide range of disciplines. Positions filled through the PCO are located primarily in Albany and New York City, in a variety of State agencies, in professional fields such as:

- Environmental Conservation
- Health and Human Services
- Human Resources and Training
- Administrative Analysis
- Transportation
- Natural and Physical Sciences
- Budgeting
- Accounting and Auditing

Application Deadline: February 22, 2017 **Examination Dates:** April 8, 9 & 15, 2017

Candidates with a Bachelor's degree and college juniors and seniors expecting to earn a Bachelor's Degree by September 1, 2018, are eligible to apply.

Stay Informed: [f](#) [t](#) [@NYSCivilService](#)
www.cs.ny.gov/pco/



VETERANS VICTORY GARDEN

SOWING THE SEEDS OF HOPE

Operation Hearts Harvest

Veterans and their families often experience post-deployment challenges related to the physical and psychological effects of combat, reintegration and adjusting to civilian life. Gardening, as a therapeutic means not only settles the mind, it also gives us a sense of purpose. Heroes at Home has a mission for any interested Veterans: Sow, cultivate, and reap the harvest. We provide the tools to accomplish the mission. Crops will either be sold at local farmer's markets or donated to local food banks in Rensselaer County. Help yourself while helping others.

Heroes at Home is a Veterans Peer Support Group dedicated to wellness recovery using a non-clinical, person centered, strength based, holistic approach. We know that only other members of the military can fully understand your experience and challenges. Peer Support is all about Hope, addressing issues such as PTSD, building relationships, encouraging connectedness, and focusing on your strengths.

Anyone interested in joining us is encouraged to call Chris Charpentier or Larry Bringing Good at 518-235-2173




We need 2 – 3 plots for gardening, approx. 30' x30'. Urban or rural. If you or someone you know in Rensselaer County can help us out call Chris at 235-2173

We have the seeds, you have the skill.

Heroes at Home is sponsored by the Pvt. Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program.

12th Annual WOUNDED WARRIOR SNOWFEST Welcome Ceremony

HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES WITH A WEEKEND OF SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING AT JIMINY PEAK MOUNTAIN RESORT



Join us to Honor our Regions War Heroes at

WELCOME CEREMONY

Friday, March 3, 2017, 6-10 PM

Troy Hilton Garden Inn

Tickets \$40 PP 6-7 PM Cash Bar


7-10 PM Dinner & Ceremony

Featuring: Mendelssohn Club of Albany, Schenectady Pipe Band, & LaSalle Institute Color Guard

Warriors & their families will enjoy 4 days of skiing or snowboarding and family activities at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in Hancock, MA. With the support of STRIDE's adaptive programs, veterans will learn how to overcome the challenges of injury and enjoy independence and freedom through sport.

Contact STRIDE for information about reserving tables or corporate sponsorships
Call: (518) 598-1279

Reserve tickets at: www.stride.org



Capital District Patriot Flight Inc

WW II, Korean, Vietnam, Cold War Veterans

Flight to the War Memorials in DC

April 29, 2017

Any Active Served Veterans up through Vietnam War Veterans & Guardians Send in Your Application




Patriotflight.org
PO Box 190 Delmar NY 12054
518-439-9265 fomservice@aol.com

Help Us Honor Our Veterans






with the U.S. Small Business Administration

Who Should Attend: Service Members (including members of the National Guard and Army Reserves) and Spouses.

Boots to Business Reboot is a free training session that provides participants with an overview of business ownership as a career vocation. It gives veterans an outline and knowledge on the components of a business plan, a practical exercise in opportunity recognition, and an introduction to available public and private resources.

Veterans have the character, discipline and skills needed to succeed as small business owners and entrepreneurs. Wondering what it takes? Enroll today!

Presenter: Amy Amoroso, Director of Veteran Business Outreach Center NY/NJ

Date and locations:

- 4/11/17:** NYC-Fedcap, 210 East 43rd Street
- 4/12/17:** Long Island, Hampton Inn, Rockville Centre
- 5/16/17:** Buffalo, Hampton Inn Downtown
- 5/17/17:** Victor, Hampton Inn, 7637 Rt 96
- 10/17/17:** Albany, NYSID, 11 Columbia Circle Drive

Register at www.NYSID.org/events after January 1.

Upcoming Events...



Call our office to inquiry about listing your event (518)270-2760

February 25th...USO Style Show from 1pm-4pm. Proceeds to benefits the NYS Military Museum, call 518-584-9137 or 518-226-0490 for tickets. Tickets also available on-line at www.friendsofthenysmilitarymuseum.com

March 13th...Honor-a-Deceased Veterans Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers @ 8:30am-TBA

April 10th...Honor-a-Deceased Veterans Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers @ 8:30am-TBA

April 29th...Capital District Patriot Flight, call 518-439-9265 for more information