



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN
County Executive

PETER K. GOEBEL
Director

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

ENHANCED OR SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION (AID AND ATTENDANCE OR HOUSEBOUND)

AID AND ATTENDANCE (A&A)

A&A is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a Veteran or surviving spouse. You may be eligible if:

- You require the aid of another person in order to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, toileting, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment, **OR**
- You are bedridden, in that your disability or disabilities requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**
- You have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less in both eyes or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

HOUSEBOUND

Housebound is an increased monthly pension amount paid to a claimant who is substantially confined to his or her home because of permanent disability. Additionally, if you are a Veteran, you may qualify for the increased housebound amount if:

- You have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, you are permanently and substantially confined to your immediate premises, **OR**,
- You have single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60-percent or more disabling.

You may not receive enhanced or special monthly pension without first establishing eligibility for VA pension. However, because enhanced pension is based upon a higher income limit, a claimant ineligible for basic pension due to excessive income may be eligible for increased pension benefits. You may not receive pension at the A&A and Housebound rate at the same time.

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



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.

Lifetime Liberty Pass

New York State created a new Lifetime Liberty Pass to permit qualified New York State Veterans with disabilities discounted use of state parks, historic sites, and recreational facilities operated by the Office Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) and the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

Once issued, the Lifetime Liberty Pass will never have to be renewed! The Lifetime Liberty Pass benefits includes free vehicle entry to state parks and DEC-operated day-use areas, as well as numerous state boat launch sites, historic sites, arboretums and park preserves; free golf at 28 State Park golf courses; free swimming pool entrance at 36 State Park pools, and discounted camping and cabin rentals at all 119 State Park and DEC campgrounds.

To qualify for the pass, the Veteran must be a resident of New York State and provide State Parks with written certification from the United States Veterans Administration or the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs that the applicant is a war Veteran with a *40% or greater service connected disability* as certified by the United States Veterans Administration, or who has at any time been awarded by the Federal government an allowance towards the purchase of an automobile or who is eligible for such an award. Note: New York State Veterans with disabilities who currently hold a valid Access Pass may continue to use their pass for its duration. Prior to expiration, the pass-holder will only need to send in a new picture and a copy of their valid NYS driver's license or non-driver ID.

To apply for the Lifetime Liberty Pass, Veterans should submit a Lifetime Liberty Pass Application (attached) and indicate they are a Veteran using the Veterans Administration/Veterans Affairs certification. They will be issued their own distinctive Lifetime Liberty Pass. For more information, contact 518-474-2324 during normal business hours. Please allow 2-4 weeks for processing of this application.

See more at: <http://nysparks.com/admission/lifetime-liberty-pass.aspx#>

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



**HEROES AT HOME
6TH ANNUAL PATRIOT RUCK MARCH
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2018**



10 OR 16 MILE ROUTE: \$25.00

**SULLIVAN-JONES VFW
POESTENKILL, NY**

**Check-in at 8am at Sullivan-Jones VFW, 25 Veterans Street, Poestenkill, NY
Participants can march with or without a rucksack.**

For more information or to register, please call (518) 235-2173 or heroesathomerensco@gmail.com



**HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED
A SALUTE TO VETERANS**

**20TH ANNUAL VETERANS BREAKFAST
Sunday, November 4, 2018 8:30 am– 11:30 am
Noontime Medal Presentation Ceremony**



**Free to all Veterans & Immediate Family Members
Veterans of Lansingburgh, 777 1st Avenue, North Troy, New York 12182**

Sponsored by County Executive Steven F. McLaughlin and the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency

For more information, please call (518) 270-2760

A Message From the Veterans Service Agency Director

As we here in the United States eagerly, but patiently, await the return of our missing comrades from the Korean War who fell on the Korean Peninsula so long ago, many questions come to mind. Who are they? Who is waiting for them? How will our comrades be identified? It is our fervent wish that our comrades be identified quickly and reunited as soon as possible with their loved ones. This can be achieved with your help. If you know anyone from our area who was listed as Missing in Action during the Korean War or any conflict, let our office know who they were and as much information as possible about them. If you know any persons in our area who have blood relatives listed as Missing in Action (particularly from the Korean War), let our office know as much contact information as possible (after clearing that with them) or have them contact our office. It is our fervent hope that unification can be expedited with the help of our office and each and every veteran out there.

Don't forget our Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Program and the Rensselaer County Legislatures Honor-A-Living Veteran Program.

See you at the 20th Annual Veterans Breakfast on November 4th!

Get involved with your Posts! Find your niche!

Sincerely,

Peter K. Goebel



HONOR-A-DECEASED VETERAN CEREMONY

Every second Monday of the month, Rensselaer County honors a deceased veteran in a very moving and respectful ceremony in the County Legislative Chambers.

If you have a loved one who was a veteran from Rensselaer County and would like to have them honored, please contact the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency at 270-2760 for an application.

The following criteria applies to the honorees:

- Must have personal tie to Rensselaer County (born, raised, or resided in);
- Must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and discharge must accompany application;
- Copy of obituary must accompany application;
- May only be honored once;
- Submitted applications must be legible and have a family contact (name, address and telephone number);
- List of all medals, campaigns, and battles;
- Include civilian history (all community services and organizations);
- Be as detailed as possible, the entire ceremony is dedicated to this one particular veteran and it is their life story;
- Completed applications and supporting info must be turned into:

Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency, 1600 Seventh Avenue, Troy, New York 12180

For an application , please call us at 518-270-2760 or download an application at www.rensco.com



2018 CAPITAL REGION HOMELESS VETERAN'S STAND DOWN



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018
8AM-1PM**

At the Colonie BPO Elks, #2192, 11 Elks Lane, Latham, NY

Albany (518) 447-7710
Rensselaer (518) 270-2760
Schenectady (518) 377-2423
Fulton (518) 736-5651

Columbia (518) 828-3610
Saratoga (518) 884-411
Washington (518) 746-2470
Montgomery (518) 853-8152

Saturday Only Number (518) 389-8399



Upcoming Events:

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

September 3rd... **LABOR DAY- OFFICE CLOSED**

September 10th... Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m.,

Thomas E. Hendry, Jr., USA, Cpl.-WWII

September 13th... 60th Annual Uncle Sam Graveside Ceremony at Uncle Sam's gravesite in Oakwood Cemetery @ 6pm. Info 518-221-3428

September 15th... Heroes at Home Patriot Ruckmarch at Sullivan Jones VFW Post, Poestenkill, NY. For info call (518)235-2173

September 29th... Patriot Flight, for more info: (518)439-9265 fomservice@aol.com or (518)795-0665 bdmendini@yahoo.com

October 8th... **COLUMBUS DAY—OFFICE CLOSED**

October 9th... Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers, 8:15 a.m.,

Edmond W. Miaski, USA, SP4-CWE & Herman W. Miaski, USA, Pfc.-WWII