



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?
- \* We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC for *most morning* medical appointments.

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



# Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

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STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN  
County Executive

PETER K. GOEBEL  
Director

## 2018 VA "ADOPT- A -VET" HOLIDAY PROGRAM

The Stratton VAMC annual Holiday gift donation program for Veterans in need is now underway. Each year has been more successful; in 2014, the first year, they helped 8 Veteran families, and last year the VAMC employees and many other community groups and agencies helped over 50 Veteran families.

This donation program is part of Voluntary Services Holiday outreach for Veterans. A "needs" list of gifts that can be donated is being maintained by Mike Fitzpatrick and Noney Grier. If you wish to fulfill a Veteran family's needs or a portion of it, or have any questions, please contact Mike or Noney at:

Mike Fitzpatrick @ 518-626-6919 [michael.fitzpatrick3@va.gov](mailto:michael.fitzpatrick3@va.gov)

Noney Grier @ 518-626-5507 [noney.grier@va.gov](mailto:noney.grier@va.gov)

All gifts must be **brand new in original packaging and unwrapped**. Gifts can be dropped off at:

Stratton VA Medical Center  
113 Holland Avenue,  
Room 712 or 711 "D" wing (Voluntary Services)  
Albany, NY 12208

## A Message From Our County Executive

Rensselaer County has vowed to never forget the service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families, and to take any opportunity to recognize those outstanding contributions. This year, Veteran's Day falls on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, a war that included the involvement of many county residents.

One of those residents who answered the call to duty was East Greenbush resident Melvin Roads, who joined the Army and served as a motorcycle courier. Tragically, he was killed while transporting an officer on a reconnaissance mission, just one day before the armistice on November 11.

The 100th anniversary of the end of World War I is an opportunity to remember Melvin Roads, World War II Medal of Honor heroes William O'Brien and Thomas Baker, and Peter Guenette, who earned the Medal of Honor in the Republic of Vietnam while saving the lives of his fellow service members by throwing himself on a grenade, along with so many others from our county who served when needed. We are so proud you called this county home, and even prouder to today serve the county and country you so capably defended."

Sincerely,

Steven F. McLaughlin

## 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](http://www.rensco.com)

### Upcoming Events...



Call our office to inquiry about listing your event

November 25th...Christmas Fundraiser to benefits Capital District Patriot Flight, Zaloga American Legion Post #1520, 1-3:30pm

December 7th...Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 10th...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:30 am,

*Joseph G. Campbell, USA, Pfc.-WWII*

December 15th...Wreaths Across America at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery

December 25th...CHRISTMAS DAY- OFFICE CLOSED

January 1st...NEW YEAR'S DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

January 14th...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:30 am,

*Thomas J. Gaynor, USA, T/4 -WWII*

January 21st....MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has determined that a select group of Air Force and Air Force Reserve personnel were exposed to herbicides through regular and repeated duties as ground, flight, or medical crew members on contaminated Operation Ranch Hand (ORH) C-123 aircraft that were used to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any Air Force Veteran or Air Force Reservist who was assigned to one of the affected Reserve or active duty units as a ground, flight, or medical crew member on a contaminated aircraft and later developed a disability that has been linked to Agent Orange exposure should file a claim. VA has information indicating that few Air Force units (active duty and Reserve) had one or more of the contaminated aircraft during the period 1969 through 1986 (depending upon unit of assignment). VA compiled a list of these units and the dates on which they had the aircraft, which is publicly available at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/residue-c123-aircraft/index.asp>

## WHO TO CONTACT AT DOD FOR RECORDS?

If you are a Veteran or next-of-kin of a deceased Veteran, you may now use [vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov) to order a copy of your military records. For all others, your request is best made using a Standard Form 180. It includes complete instructions for preparing and submitting requests. Please Note: All requests must be in writing, signed and mailed to the following address:

**National Personnel Records Center  
1 Archives Drive  
St. Louis, Missouri 63138**

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.

## HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

Claimants are encouraged to apply online through the eBenefits portal. You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-526, Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension, or VA Form 21-526EZ, Fully Developed Claim (Compensation). Please ensure that each C-123 related disability is specifically annotated (e.g., Diabetes/C-123) on *Part II, Block 14* of VA Form 21-526, or *Section I, Block 11* of VA Form 21-526EZ. If you have any of the following material, please submit it with your application:

If you have any of the following material, please attach it to your application:

- Discharge, separation papers (DD214 or equivalent)
- USAF Form 2096 (unit where assigned at the time of the training action)
- USAF Form 5 (aircraft flight duties)
- USAF Form 781 (aircraft maintenance duties)
- Dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates)
- Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)

## HOW DO ELIGIBLE SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS APPLY?

Eligible survivors and dependents can apply by filling out VA Form 21-534, Application for DIC, Death Pension & Accrued Benefits by Surviving Spouse or Child. Or VA Form 21-534EZ, Fully Developed Claim (Survivors Benefits). Please ensure "C-123 claim" is annotated on *Section I, Block 7* of VA Form 21-534 or *Section I, Block 16* of VA Form 21-534EZ.

Applications for benefits should be mailed to the following location (or faxed to 608-373-6694):

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
Claims Intake Center  
Attention: C123 Claims  
PO Box 5088  
Janesville, WI 53547-5088**

## HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

All C-123 claims are processed at the St. Paul Regional Office.



# WREATHS *across* AMERICA

## Wreath Sponsorship Form

\*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org)

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
**Wreaths Across America TM**  
PO Box 249  
Columbia Falls, ME 04823  
Questions? Please call 877-385-9504  
Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Do we have permission to publicize your name as a sponsor?

Yes OR  No, I wish to remain Anonymous

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual- 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card- If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family- 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business- 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate- 100 Wreaths	\$1,500.00		
		Grand Total	

**\*\*SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS\*\***

**In Honor of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide email of "In Honor Of" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing: \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:**

\_\_\_\_\_

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and **no** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: NYGSNS Fundraising Group ID: NY0057

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash \$: _____	Total\$: _____	Date: _____
Total # Checks: _____	Reconciled: _____	
MO \$: _____	GEN:	
Entered: _____		