

RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

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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
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

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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 above).

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.

FACES OF VETERANS

PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT

Photography by Patriot Images, LLC

Saturday, May 11, 2019	1pm to 7pm
Thursday, May 23, 2019	3pm to 7pm
Saturday, June 8, 2019	1pm to 7pm

Lansingburgh Veterans Club House
777 1st Avenue
Troy, New York 12182

Free for all Veterans in Rensselaer County

For more info or to register, please go to www.patriotimages.org

A Message from the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency Director

As the weather warms up, our thoughts turn to Memorial Day and honoring our fallen comrades. There will be many parades and ceremonies to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and joined the ranks of those we honor annually in May, but remember them every day. Remember and honor them by living above the common level of life and assisting your fellow Veterans in whatever way that you can. Join with other Veterans, to make it easier to see the cumulative effects of our efforts, and to help Veterans who may not be aware of the aid that is out there for them, and for the less fortunate in our communities.

There are many posts out there every Veteran is eligible for. Join the posts you are eligible for. Get out there and join us to help our Veterans. "Find Your Niche"!

All Veterans should have their DD-214's or discharge documents registered at the Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency and/or the Rensselaer County Clerk's Office. Honorably Discharged Veterans can get their Return the F.A.V.O.R. card at the County Clerk's Office at 105 Third Street, Troy, New York or call them at (518) 270-4080.

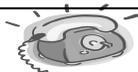
Everyone at your Posts and every Veteran out there should know at least one Veteran that the Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Committee can remember in the monthly poignant ceremony and each Post should also contact the Rensselaer County Legislature to honor our living Veterans at (518) 270-2880 or email: Renscoleg@rensco.com.

Enjoy your spring and remember Memorial Day when we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation. Join us to preserve the rights of Veterans others are trying to take away and to support each other as only we can.

Yours in Patriotism,

Peter K. Goebel

Upcoming Events:



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

May 13th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:

Clinton J. Winnie, USA PFC—Korea

May 23th... Melrose/Schaghticoke/Valley Falls/Johnsonville Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 7pm Schaghticoke

May 25th... East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10 am

May 26th... Rensselaer Memorial Day Parade, ceremony @ 1pm - step off @ 2 pm

May 27th... MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

May 27th... Sand Lake Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 10am

May 27th... Hoosick Falls Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am

May 27th... Castleton Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am

May 27th... 23rd Annual Lansingburgh Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11 am rain or shine

May 27th... Berlin Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11am

May 27th... Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade @ 11am

May 27th... North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 1:30 pm

May 27th... Nassau Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 2pm, ceremony following

June 10th... Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:

Robert R. Gordon, Sr., USN, Fireman First Class-WWII & Robert R. Gordon, Jr., USA, 1Lt.-Vietnam & retired ARNG-Major