



# Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

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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

## 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  
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**

## DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Disability compensation is a monthly tax-free benefit paid to Veterans who are at least 10% disabled because of injuries or diseases that were incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as a mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

### BENEFIT

The benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the Veteran's disability on a scale from 10 percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may also be paid for disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

If you have dependents, an additional allowance may be added if your combined disability is rated 30% or greater. Your compensation may be offset if you receive military retirement pay, disability severance pay, or separation incentive payments.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Service in the Uniformed Services on active duty, **OR**
- Active duty for training, **OR**
- Inactive duty training, **AND**
- You were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- You are at least 10% disabled by an injury or disease that was incurred in or aggravated during active duty or active duty for training, or inactive duty training

**Note:** If you were on inactive duty for training, the disability must have resulted from injury, heart attack, or stroke.

### EVIDENCE REQUIRED

- Medical evidence of a current physical or mental disability, **AND**
- Evidence of a relationship between your disability and an injury, disease, or event in military service. Medical records or medical opinions are required to establish this relationship.

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**NOTE:** UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, VA MAY CONCLUDE THAT CERTAIN CURRENT DISABILITIES WERE CAUSED BY SERVICE, EVEN IF THERE IS NO SPECIFIC EVIDENCE PROVING THIS IN YOUR PARTICULAR CLAIM. THE CAUSE OF A DISABILITY IS PRESUMED FOR THE FOLLOWING VETERANS WHO HAVE CERTAIN DISEASES.

**PRESUMED DISABILITY**

- Former prisoners of war
- Veterans who have certain chronic or tropical diseases that become evident within a specific period of time after discharge from service
- Veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation, mustard gas, or Lewisite while in service
- Veterans who were exposed to certain herbicides, such as by serving in Vietnam
- Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War

**EXAMPLE 1**

During a weekend drill, an Army Reservist injures her knee while participating in a physical training class. She is eligible for compensation for residuals of the knee injury.

**EXAMPLE 2**

An individual enlisted in the U.S. Navy on June 10, 1988, and served for a period of 3 years. He was honorably discharged on June 9, 1991. During his active duty, he fell from a bunk and injured his back. Based on his active service, he is entitled to service-connected benefits for the residuals of his back injury.

## **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)

The Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery  
is proud to announce the 5<sup>th</sup> annual

# Vietnam Era Veterans Recognition Ceremony



**If you are a Veteran who served between  
November 1, 1955 – May 15, 1975**

Please join us to meet other Vietnam Era Veterans...  
We would like to take this opportunity to recognize  
and thank you for your service.

When:

Friday March 27,<sup>th</sup> 2020

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Where:

G.B.H.S. Saratoga National Cemetery – Shelter 1  
200 Duell Rd, Schuylerville, NY 12871

(for further information, please call 518-581-9128)



**Thank You!**



## A Message From Our County Executive

Greetings to our veterans, their families and all in our veteran community. We are excited about some great news in our county, with historic job creation, a second consecutive property tax reduction and sales tax growth that led the state.

We are equally excited the county is also taking steps to expand our recognition of those who fought for our country and were wounded or killed during that service. The county will be declared a Purple Heart County via legislative resolution in March, joining a number of other municipalities who have made a similar declaration.

The Purple Heart is the oldest continually awarded medal for our military, earned by those wounded or killed in action with an enemy. The medal was first established by order of George Washington and holds an important place in our history. Rensselaer County residents have defended America through our nation's history, and this honor is appropriate and well-deserved.

Please remember that county government is here to serve you. Whether you need support from our Veteran's Service Agency or have a question or issue with a county service, please do not hesitate to contact my office or any other county office. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Steven F. McLaughlin*



## I WANT YOU to be a Legionnaire

**If You Served Honorably in The Military From  
December 7, 1941 Through Today  
Or Are Currently Serving  
You Can Join The American Legion**

Please contact Ed Lupian for more information at:  
[AL1683LUPIAN@aol.com](mailto:AL1683LUPIAN@aol.com) Or call 518-427-8575 and leave a message

### Upcoming Events...



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

March 9th...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:30 am,

*Austin A. Wilcox - USA, SFC-Vietnam & Afghanistan*

March 27th...Vietnam Era Veterans recognition Ceremony at G.B.H.S. Saratoga National Cemetery, for more information call (518) 581-9128.

April 13th...Honor-a-Deceased Veteran Ceremony in the Legislative Chambers at 8:30 am,

*Thomas S. Ostrowski- USN, DM2-Vietnam Era*