



County of Albany Veterans Service Bureau Newsletter

July-August 2021

Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive
Kenneth Secor
Director



Services for Veterans

Albany County Veterans Service Bureau provides information on the various Veterans benefits. We aid veterans and their families with various county, state, and federal entitlements such as:

- Disability, pension, and/or compensation benefits
- Burial allowances, head stones, and flags
- Educational benefits
- Upgrading military discharges
- Obtaining copies of discharges & medical records
- Job referrals
- Return the FAVOR cards



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Service members and Veterans in crisis, as well as their family members and friends, with qualified, caring VA responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text-messaging service.

This Free support is:

- Confidential
- Available every day, 24/7

And serves:

- All Veterans
- All service members
- National Guard & Reserve
- Family members & friends

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>

Message from the Director

Memorial day was different again with many parades and ceremonies cancelled throughout the County. However, it was great seeing some of the ceremonies still conducted and flags put out at the cemeteries. A big thanks to Mark Rosenzweig, Joe Pollicino, and the Gold Star Families for making sure some of the ceremonies were still conducted and to all the Veteran organizations and supporters who placed flags at cemeteries. Hopefully next year all the ceremonies and events can be resumed.

The following weekend, the NY Run For The Fallen was conducted. A run over 3 days from Syracuse to Albany to recognize all the NY fallen heroes that have passed since the bombing of the USS Cole. As usual it was a very touching ceremony to end the run at Lafayette Park in Albany. Thank you to all the runners and coordinators (especially Kristi Mangine, Carrie Farley, and the Gold Star families) for making this event possible. This event also raises awareness about Military and Veteran suicide so they always close out the ceremony with 22 pushups in remembrance to the approximately 22 who perish each day. I did the 22 push ups next to some of my favorite runners who like me do 22 every day. Lastly, I would say that this year was very different in another way. One of the runs biggest supporters, planners, and personalities was not with us this year as he had passed away. Steve "El Paso" Hamm will be forever missed at future runs and especially my conversations with him about our submarine days.

Keep an eye out for many of the Veteran events that usually happen every Summer. These events support great Veteran causes and desperately need your support since they were not able to be conducted last year.

We are still trying to restart the monthly Honor A Veteran ceremonies. There are dates available for this year and next year. If you would like to nominate a Veteran for this honor, please contact me (518-447-7710 or kenneth.secor@albanycountyny.gov) with the name of the Veteran and a point of contact for the family and we will make all the coordination.

In this issue we will discuss COVID-19 vaccines at the VA, debt relief extension, a CPAP/BiPAP recall, the GI Bill going digital, the American Rescue Plan, claim location expansion, and of course more free stuff and discounts.

As always, thank you to all my fellow Veterans.

162 Washington Ave, Albany, New York 12210 | (518) 447-7710 | FAX (518) 447-7714
www.AlbanyCounty.com/veterans

ALBANY COUNTY
Cares about our veterans



Return The F.A.V.O.R. Discount For Veterans

Return the F.A.V.O.R. (Find & Assist Veterans of Record) is a merchant discount program for eligible Albany County Veterans. The program provides veterans with a discount on services or purchases at participating merchants.

Veterans can enroll by bringing their DD-214 to the Albany County Veterans Service Bureau office Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm. Please call for an appointment to ensure availability and timely service.

Return the FAVOR ID application form can be downloaded at: <http://www.albanycounty.com/veterans>



Albany County Honor A Veteran Program

Each month Albany County honors a deceased Veteran with a ceremony at various locations throughout the County that includes a County Proclamation presented to the Veteran's family and the raising of an American flag that was flown over our Nation's Capitol in tribute to the honored Veteran.

Anyone (family, friends, funeral directors, veterans groups, etc.) may submit nomination form and resume for consideration.

For nomination information, process, & criteria, please visit our webpage at:

<http://www.albanycounty.com/veterans>

COVID-19 Vaccinations at VA

The Albany VA Medical Center is currently providing COVID-19 vaccinations for all Veterans, spouses, and caregivers. Veterans do NOT have to be registered with the VA. To schedule an appointment call 518-626-7228, option 2. They have many walk in clinics so you can also check the availability of these at the number above. More information can be found at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>.

CPAP / BiPAP Recall

VA has just learned about the recall on Philips Respironics CPAP and BiPAPs. Your safety is their top priority. Veterans who are noticing problems with their device or any new respiratory symptoms should contact their care team immediately. Otherwise, they should continue using the device as prescribed, pending additional guidance. They are currently working with the manufacturer on a solution and will keep you informed as additional information and guidance becomes available.

GI Bill Is Going Digital

The VA is modernizing your education benefits, and soon one million GI Bill beneficiaries will enjoy improved customer service. With the Digital GI Bill, you will have faster access to your educational benefits to pursue your academic and career goals. Stay tuned for more information!

American Rescue Plan Helps Veterans

As part of the American Rescue Plan, the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) provides financial aid to help you recover from the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. VRRAP offers up to 12 months of tuition, fees, and a monthly housing allowance. Learn if you're eligible and how to apply at <https://www.va.gov/education/other-va-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance>

Claim Exam Locations Expand

Disability compensation and pension (C&P) exams, also called claim exams, are crucial to determine your eligibility for VA benefits. Now C&P exam locations have expanded to include non-VA vendors across the country. QTC Medical is the vendor that has been used for our area so if you see their number (1-800-682-9701 or 213-474-2799) come up on your phone, it is legitimate and you should answer. They will also, mail you information regarding your claim exams.



Important Documents & Information When Applying for Benefits

- Honorable Discharge from the Armed Forces or Report of Military Separation (DD-214)
- Record of Marriage
- Birth certificate or adoption papers for dependent children
- Death Certificate of Veteran & any previous spouse
- Divorce Papers
- Veterans social security number
- Department of Veterans Affairs claim or file number
- Annual family income information (wages, retirement, interest, etc.)

All Documents listed above may be copied, except for the DD-214, which must be a certified copy.

Veterans Service Officers (VSO)

Albany County Veterans Service Bureau has three American Legion certified VSO's to assist Veterans with benefits.

Ken Secor, SGM (Ret)
Mike Good, SGM (Ret)
Jim Ader, SGT (Ret)

(518) 447-7710 or email at veteransbureau@albanycountyny.gov

Albany County Mobile Crisis Team

Psychiatric crisis services are available 24/7 at the CDPC Crisis Unit and from the Mobile Crisis Team.

Call (518) 549-6500

<https://www.albanycounty.com/mentalhealth>

Debt Relief Extended for Veterans

VA recognizes that some Veterans and beneficiaries continue to be impacted by COVID-19. To provide relief, VA is suspending the collection of Veteran benefit overpayments incurred between April 6, 2020, and Sept. 30, 2021. Additionally, medical and pharmacy copayments incurred during this period will be canceled and any payments refunded. To get more information or use their new online tool to check the status of your VA debt, as well as options to resolve it go to <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/87700/new-financial-tool-provides-veterans-control-transparency/>

Discounts & Free Stuff!

Free Virtual Legal Clinic

The McNulty Veterans Business Center has been sponsored by the Ann Allen Cetrino Foundation and partnered with Mario Cometti to offer free legal counsel for Vets on August 3, 2021. This clinic offers a confidential 25 minute appointment with an attorney. The appointment will be via phone call or zoom meeting. Appointments are limited and on a first come first serve basis. Appointments can be booked by email at JBoston@mcnultycenter.org. Additional clinic is planned for November 3.

Veterans & Military Appreciation Night at the Ballpark

The ValleyCats are excited to offer 1,000 complimentary tickets for Veterans, Military personnel, and their families to attend a game on Wednesday, July 7th. They will be playing a doubleheader with the first game at 4:30 PM and the second game at approximately 7:00 PM. Both games will be 7 innings and ceremonies in between games to honor those who have served. Tickets are available by calling the box office at 518-629-2287 x-112

Discounts

[Dollywood](#) – 30% off one day admission tickets or discounted season pass. Available for active Military, Veterans, reservists, spouses and dependents

[Reebok](#) – 30% off retail price online once verified. Available for active Military, Veterans and dependents

[Lowes](#) – 10% off discount eligible purchases

[Texas de Brazil](#) – 20% off, not valid on holidays

Lake George - If you're planning a trip make sure to check out the discounts available on all sorts of things such as dining, hotels, activities, and so much more at <https://www.visitlakegeorge.com/regional-info/military-discounts>



Capital District Region
HONORING OUR VETERANS

This is a dedicated all-volunteer not-for-profit organization that honors local Veterans by flying them to Washington, DC for a day to visit and reflect at the memorials dedicated to their service, sacrifices and memories.

PO Box 13776
Albany, NY 12212-3776
(518) 857-8881
<http://patriotflight.org/>

RESOURCES & VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

There are many resources and Veteran organizations within Albany County and a listing of them is now available on our webpage at:

<http://www.albanycounty.com/veterans>

<p>Veterans of Foreign War Wm. F. Wigand Post 8444 370 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206 (518) 465-6992 www.facebook.com/Wigand-Post-8444-117247008294450/ Monthly meeting: 6pm on second Tue</p>	<p>American Legion Legnard Curtin Post 927 35 Cohoes Ave Green Island, NY 12183 (518) 272-1198  Monthly meeting: 1130am on first Sun</p>	<p>Tri-County Council of Vietnam Era Veterans PO Box 11100 Albany, NY 12211 (518) 465-6829 www.tccvev.com Monthly meeting: 7pm on first Tue at AL Zaloga Post (4 Everett Rd Ext, Albany)</p>
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UPCOMING VETERAN EVENTS

4-Jul	Independence Day		Office Closed on 5Jul
7-Jul	ValleyCats Veteran/Military Appreciation Day	430 & 7pm	Bruno Stadium, Troy
12-Jul	Homeless Veterans Scramble	9am	Colonie Country Club, Voorheesville
12-Jul	Operation At Ease - Beginner Dog Training	445pm	Rotterdam
16-Jul	Veterans MC - Bike Night/Open House	6pm	Schenectady
18-Jul	Veterans MC - Annual Homeless Vet Run	12pm	Schenectady
18-Jul	Operation Adopt A Soldier Open House	12-3pm	Wilton
19-Jul	Toys For Tots Golf Tournament	12pm	Edison Club, Rexford
24-Jul	Upstate NY Wounded Vet Run	12pm	Brunswick Harley Davidson to Wicked Eatery
27-Jul	National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day		
28-31-Jul	Am Legion Dept of NY Conference		Desmond Hotel, Albany & Virtual
1-Aug	Air Force Day		
4-Aug	Coast Guard Day		
7-Aug	Purple Heart Day		
8-Aug	TCCVEV China Beach Event	12-5pm	Polish American Citizens Club, Albany
10-Aug	Agent Orange Awareness Day		
18-Aug	Altamont Fair Veterans Appreciation Day		Altamont Fairgrounds
21-Aug	PTSD Awareness Ride (Operation At Ease)	12pm	Spitzie's, Albany
28-Aug	PTSD & Service Dog Awareness Ride	12pm	Brunswick Harley Davidson, Troy
28-Aug	Blue Star Mother's Blue Jean Ball	530pm	Am Legion Zaloga Post, Albany
29-Aug	Marine Corps Reserve Birthday		
29-Aug	VCHC Helping Our Vets Car Show	11am-3pm	Saratoga Fairgrounds, Ballston Spa
30-Aug	Malta Veteran Program Golf Outing	8am	Saratoga Lake Golf Club, Malta
Every Thursday	Veteran Services Remote Site	9-11am	Veterans Miracle Center, Albany
Every Friday	Veterans & Friends Breakfast	8am	Gateway Diner, Albany
Every Friday	Art4Vets	9am-12pm	American Legion Zaloga Post, Albany

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED!

ValleyCats



VETERANS NIGHT

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Double Header vs. The New York Boulders

Game 1 begins at 4:30pm

Game 2 to begin 30-45 minutes after the first game is completed. A special ceremony will

take place between games.

Double Header will be two 7 Inning Games

All tickets are good for both games



COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS AVAILABLE ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVE BASIS FOR VETERANS!

For more information and to request tickets, please visit www.tcvalleycats.com or call 518-629-2287

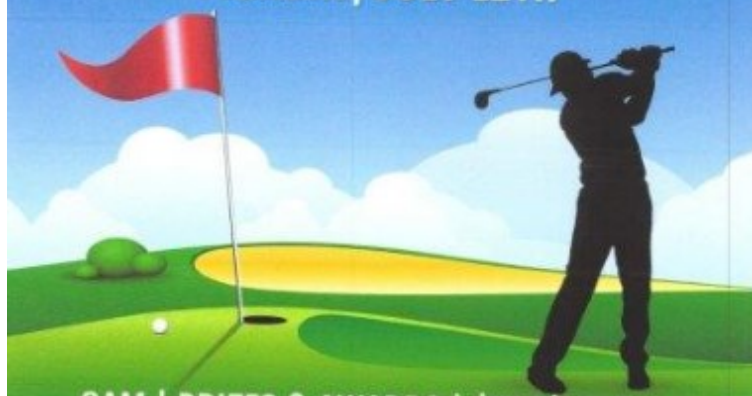
8TH ANNUAL

Veterans'

GOLF

SCRAMBLE

- MONDAY, JULY 12TH -



9AM | PRIZES & AWARDS | \$125/GOLFER

Check in begins at 7:30 AM. Shotgun start at 8:00 AM.
50/50, Long Drive, Closest to the Pin.

COLONIE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Voorheesville, New York

To sign up call or text (518) 701-9695, (518) 859-1860, or (859) 361-3541
Send Payment by check to Veterans' Scramble, P.O. Box 67, Selkirk, NY 12158 or
by Paypal at veteransscramble@yahoo.com (enter paid golfers' names under notes)
Payment due by July 5, 2021.



Beginner Classes Starting
07/12 @ 4:45pm \$165 (7 Weeks)

www.operationatease.org/purchase



MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 AT 4:45 PM E...

Beginner Dog Training

Operation At Ease Inc · Rotterdam

VETERANS

Motorcycle Club



BIKE NIGHT / OPEN HOUSE

Friday July 16, 2021

Starts @ 6PM

6437 Amsterdam Rd
Schenectady, NY 12302





Veterans Motorcycle Club New York Chapter 8



15th Annual Homeless Veterans Run

Starts and Ends At

Sunday July 18, 2021

6437 Amsterdam Rd
Schenectady, NY 12302

\$20 Per Person

Food, Music,
and Raffles following ride
at the Clubhouse.

Registration @ 10am
Kickstands Up @ 12pm



Follow us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/VMCNY8>



WE ARE BACK!!!

Operation Adopt a Soldier is back
at 4281 Route 50 in Wilton

OPEN HOUSE

July 18, 2021 from 12 to 3pm
Stop by in see our new building!
Refreshments will be served

For information call Cliff at 518-260-9922
www.operationadoptsoldier.org

CAPITAL REGION
MARINE CORPS RESERVE



6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

WE NEED
YOU!

The Details!

Monday, July 19th 2021

The Edison Club - Rexford, NY

Registration - 10:00am

Lunch and Giveaways Prior to Golf

Shotgun Start - 12:00pm

Dinner and Raffles After Golf



Registration information can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/capitalregiontoysfortots>

UPSTATE NEW YORK WOUNDED VET RUN



SPC Antonio Torre

Saturday, July 24th (Rain or Shine)

MOTORCYCLE RIDE

\$20 a Rider, \$10 per Passenger, \$20 Walk Ins
Registration Starts at 9am-Kickstands Up Noon
Purpose: To help support SPC Antonio Torre

Start: Brunswick Harley, 1130 Hoosick Rd, Troy NY
End: Wicked Eatery, 1602 U.S. 9, Clifton Park NY
CEREMONY-FOOD-MUSIC-BEER-VENDORS-RAFFLE ITEMS

For Questions: upstatenywvr@gmail.com or 518-720-7111
BIKE NOT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE-EVERYONE WELCOME

All proceeds directly benefit this wounded veteran
Those who do not ride please join us
at Wicked Eatery to welcome bikers and veterans



They Fought We Ride.com

China Beach XXVII - August 8, 2021

For Tickets Call
Darlene - (518) 470-7310
Al - (518)-466-8771



To benefit returning Veterans & Veterans of all eras and their families

Drawing held Sunday - August 8, 2021 at the Polish American Citizens Club of America

110 Commerce Avenue, Albany, New York - 12 Noon - 5 PM (Rain or Shine)

Tickets \$20.00, (kids 6-12) \$10.00, Kids 5 and under free (Includes food and beverages).

\$10.00 Per Raffle Ticket - Only 4,000 Tickets Available

1st Prize - \$5,000.00 2nd Prize \$2,500.00 5-3rd Prizes \$500.00 ea.

No need to be present to win! Responsible For All Taxes



PTSD - Awareness Ride
It's not a disorder



3RD ANNUAL

August 21, 2021

Registration 10am @ SPITZIES - 1970 Central Ave. Albany, NY
KSU @ NOON \$20 per rider. \$10 per passenger

Join us at the end to welcome bikes & veterans at
Wicked Eatery Pub & Entertainment
1602 Route 9 #1, 4443, Clifton Park, NY
Live Music, Lunch, Raffles & Vendors



www.operationatease.org
events@operationatease.org



Helping Veterans • Saving Dogs • Changing Lives

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28TH



CEREMONY
FOOD
VENDORS
RAFFLE ITEMS

PTSD & Service Dog Awareness Ride

ALL PROCEEDS DIRECTLY BENEFIT VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS WITH PTSD AND RESCUE DOGS IN OUR TRAINING PROGRAM

\$20 - RIDER 10AM - REGISTRATION
\$10 - PASSENGER 12PM - KSU

START X END: BRUNSWICK HARLEY DAVIDSON
1130 HOOSICK RD, TROY, NY



CONTACT: Sonya@IbiSemperTraining.org
[@ibi_sempert_training](https://www.facebook.com/ibi_sempert_training) [@ibisempertraining1](https://www.instagram.com/ibisempertraining1)

In Support of our sons and daughters currently serving our country and those that have honorably served

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc
Capital Region NY 2

Cordially invites you to attend our

14th Annual Blue Jean Ball



Join us for Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction and Fun!! All for a Great Cause!!
Music by Cool Cats

Saturday, August 28, 2021

Joseph E Zaloga Post 1520
4 Everett Rd, Albany, NY 12205
5:30 pm Welcome Reception
6:30 pm Program
7:00 pm Dinner

Welcome Reception
Bread, Cheese, Vegetables & Dip
Cash Bar Available

Dinner
Tossed Salad
Dinner Rolls, Coffee and Tea

Choice of Entrée
Boneless Breast of Chicken Monterey
or
Prime Rib
or
Vegetarian Special

Dessert

\$35 per person (reserve table of 8 - \$280.00)

Questions?
Send to capitalregion2bsm@gmail.com -Attention BJB

Please RSVP to Blue Star Mothers Capital Region NY2 by August 14, 2021.
Mail: Capital Region BSM NY2, PO Box 243, Delmar, NY 12054

HELPING OUR VETS CAR SHOW



SUNDAY AUGUST 29, 2021

Saratoga Fairgrounds

**162 Prospect Street
Ballston Spa NY 12020**

**9:30 - 11:00 Registration
11:00 - 3:00 Show hours**



in
conjunction
with the 3 DAY

5th Annual Charity Golf Outing

Save the Date!

Support the



Malta
Veteran Appreciation Program

Mon- August 30, 2021

Support your LOCAL Vets!!

REGISTER NOW!

Play & Win!
\$150 | **\$560**
PER PERSON | FOURSOME

**Jim Peterman - 203-257-1893
Renee Farley - 518-577-8863
Jason Goldsmith - 860-803-6718**



OR VISIT US AT : MaltaVets.com
Facebook: Malta Veterans Appreciation Program
Email: MaltaVETS@gmail.com

VETERANS

Motorcycle Club



8th Annual 9/11 Poker Run

\$20 Per Person

Saturday 11 September 2021

Registration 10:00 am - 11:45 am
Kickstands Up at Noon

Starting and Ending at
6437 Amsterdam Rd
Schenectady, NY 12302

Food
Music
Raffles
And More



Follow us on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/VMCNY8