



County of Albany Veterans Service Bureau Newsletter

November-December 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 and 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 records
- Job referrals
- Return the FAVOR cards

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



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 and available every day, 24/7, to all Veterans, all service members, National Guard & Reserve, family members & friends

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>

Message from the Director

Well the summer was quite a wet one and seemed to fly right by. The good part of it was that we saw many events and organizations starting to get back on track.

We did it! We were finally able to restart our monthly Honor A Veteran ceremonies. The first one was October 4th at the American Legion Zaloga Post to honor Joseph J. Donohue, US Army. The next will be 830am on Monday, November 1st at the American Legion Zaloga Post to honor Joseph Nardolillo, US Marine Corps. There are still dates available for next year (2022) so 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.

As we move into November, we are approaching Veteran's Day. I am extremely excited to say that most of the annual events will happen this year. That includes Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy honoring two outstanding local Veterans at a ceremony to be held November 4th at 10am at Crossgates Mall (near the 110 Grill). Of course the big event will be the City of Albany's Veterans Day Parade. There is a large list of Veterans Day events posted on our webpage at <https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/veterans-service-bureau/events>. I look forward to seeing you at some of these events.

In this issue we will discuss COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the VA, New Veterans Benefits Guide, Veteran Finder mobile app, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier commemorations, and of course more free stuff and discounts.

As always, thank you to all my fellow Veterans.

COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations at VA

The Albany VA Medical Center is providing COVID-19 and flu vaccinations. To schedule an appointment call 518-626-7228, option 2. They may also have walk in clinics so you can check the for them at the number above.

Currently they are also providing COVID-19 booster shots for Veterans age 65 and older.

More information can be found at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>.

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>

New Veterans Benefits Guide now available

VA partnered with Stars and Stripes to create a special edition insert for the publication called "The Veterans Benefits Guide." The print and digital publication, which highlights VA benefits and services available for transitioning service members and their families, is available now. It can be found at ww2.stripes.com/epaper/special-publications/veterans-benefits-guide.

Together We Served - Veteran Finder Mobile App

Have you ever wondered what happened to someone you served with? Now you can find them, quickly and easily, on Together We Served's brand new FREE Veteran Finder App. It is a comprehensive fast-growing directory of more than 2.1 million Veterans from all five service branches.

View complete Service Histories including their Medals and Awards, Badges and Insignia, Basic Training/ Boot Camp, Unit Assignments, Combat/ Non-Combat Operations, plus Training Schools and Courses. Browse their Military Photos and Service Memories.

Once found, you can make contact and rekindle old friendships!

TWS's Mobile App also includes a moving tribute to over 120,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coastguardsmen who died during their service to our country.

The app can be downloaded from Google Play or Apple App Store

Commemorations For The Tomb

The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is leading national efforts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sacred crypts at Arlington National Cemetery. The society plans events in multiple locations in the United States and France to honor the anniversary.

See the full list of commemorative events at <https://tombguard.org/centennial>

VA Lunch Sessions

The American Legion Blanchard-Currey Post 1040 delivers monthly lunches for the patients at the Albany VA Medical Center. On Monday, October 18th they provided a lunch with meatloaf, mashed potatoes, baked ziti, bread, and cake. They already have several more months planned.

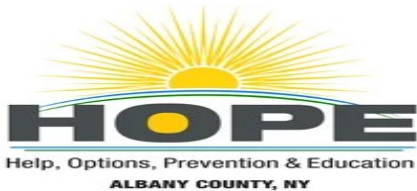
This is a great example of Veterans helping Veterans. Thank you Blanchard-Currey post for doing such a great thing.



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.



Albany Counties suicide and warning prevention app for your smartphone. A source of information if you need help or if you know someone that does. Provides warning signs, what to say, help for Veterans, teens/young adults and adults, resources, contacts, and assessments. Available through iTunes and Google Play stores.

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>

Discounts & Free Stuff!

NY Lifetime Liberty Pass

This pass permits free vehicle entry to state parks and DEC-operated day-use areas, as well as numerous state boat launch sites, historic sites, arboreta 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, the Veteran must reside in NY and provide State Parks with written certification from the VA or NYS Division of Veterans Services that they are a war Veteran with a 40% or greater service connected disability, or who has been awarded by the Federal government an allowance towards the purchase of an automobile or is eligible for such an award.

Once issued, the Lifetime Liberty Pass will never have to be renewed!

More information can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/admission/lifetime-liberty-pass.aspx>

Hoffman Carwash / Jiffy Lube

For one day only, on November 11th, Veterans and Active Duty Military can receive a free car wash and/or a \$9.99 signature oil change.

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 November 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.

Discounts

[Amtrak](#) Veterans receive a 10% discount on the lowest available rail fare on most Amtrak trains. Use the Fare Finder at the beginning of your search and select 'Military Veteran' to receive the discount.

[Jiffy Lube](#) 15% off with valid military ID

[Great Wolf Lodge](#) Save up to 30% with code HEROES when you book by 3/31/2022

[Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's](#) 5% off daily in-store and online.



RESOURCES & VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

There are many resources and Veteran organizations within Albany County and a few are shown below. A larger listing is now available on our webpage at: <http://www.albanycounty.com/veterans>



The **Veterans Miracle Center** is a special place for veterans and active-duty military personnel, as well as their immediate families, to receive daily life necessities.

10 Interstate Avenue
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 486-8398

<http://www.vmcalbany.org/>
Hours: Mon - Fri /9am - 5pm

**American Legion
Blanchard-Currey Post 1040**
16 W. Poplar Drive
Delmar, NY 12054
(518) 439-9819
<http://nabpost1040.us/>
Monthly meeting:
7pm on first Mon

**Veterans of Foreign War
Watervliet Post 729**
783 Broadway
Watervliet, NY 12189
(518) 273-4896
www.facebook.com/watervlietvfw/
Monthly meeting:
7pm on third Mon

**Marine Corps League
Capt. Wm. Dale O'Brien
Det 241**
(518) 237-1712
<https://www.facebook.com/CaptWmDaleOBrien241/>
Monthly meeting:
7pm on 2nd Wed at
Am. Legion Zaloga Post

**American Legion
Voorheesville Post 1493**
31 Voorheesville Ave
Voorheesville, NY 12186
(518) 765-4712
www.facebook.com/pg/VoorheesvilleALP1493
Monthly meeting:
7pm on third Thu

**Veterans of Foreign War
Ravena Post 9594**
12 Whitbeck St
Ravena, NY 12143
(518) 756-9594
www.facebook.com/VFW9594/
Monthly meeting:
7pm on second Thu

**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
Am. Legion Zaloga Post



Their mission is to save military lives by linking Veterans and active duty service members with confidential counselors via Telehealth or by locating a local provider who can help them. Their critical task is to foster a safe environment where they can get the help they need.

501 (c)(3) Nonprofit #84-2612081
640 Grooms Rd, Suite 230
Clifton Park, NY
(518)712-9820

<https://www.hicksstrong.org/>

**American Legion
Colonie Post 1256**
140 VFW Dr
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 456-7794
www.vfwpost8692.com/am_legion_1256
Monthly meeting:
7pm on second Fri

**Veterans of Foreign War
Robert L. Weininger
Post 8692**
140 VFW Dr
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 456-7794
www.vfwpost8692.com
Monthly meeting:
7pm on second Mon

**American Veterans
NYS Capital District
AMVETS Post 35**
PO Box 4152
Schenectady, NY 12304
<http://amvetspost35ny.com/>
Monthly meeting:
7pm on fourth Thur
at Guilderland Elks Lodge

UPCOMING VETERAN EVENTS

In order to provide a more detailed and current listing of Veteran events, we have made the Upcoming Veteran Events into a separate document and will be sending it on a monthly basis to anyone that is subscribed to our newsletter. This will also allow us to provide more updates to our event listing on our webpage which can be viewed at <https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/veterans-service-bureau/events>. If your organization has Veteran events that you would like added to our listing, please contact Ken Secor at 518-447-7710 or kenneth.secor@albanycountyny.gov.