



County of Albany Veterans Service Bureau Newsletter

July-August 2022

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

Memorial Day had several local parades and ceremonies. It was great to see many Veterans and supporters out there attending these events. Before you know it Veterans Day will be here and there will be more parades and ceremonies. Hope to see an even bigger turnout for these upcoming events.

During the summer months many Veteran organizations will be hosting fundraising events. These events are usually their big source of funding to conduct all the great work and support that they provide. Many of these organizations fight for the benefits we have today and they continue to push the government and the VA for further benefits, especially related to health care and compensation for conditions sustained due to our service. Please consider supporting/attending some of these events, some of which are posted in our calendar of events. If any Veteran organization would like to add their event to our list, please contact me at kenneth.secor@albanycountyny.gov

Our monthly Honor A Veteran ceremonies are being conducted and have been well attended. Please see the calendar of events on our webpage for the most recent details to include location and honorees. We are planning ceremonies for 2023 and there are dates available 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 Veteran's name and point of contact for the family so we can make the coordination.

This issue has highlights of the Honoring Our Promise To Address Comprehensive Toxins Act ("Honoring Our PACT Act"). Passage of this will have many effects on care and compensation from the VA. Again, this issue only highlights some of the major points but there are more benefits to it. As more information becomes available for this, we will push it out.

My staff and I hope you all have a very enjoyable summer.

As always, thank you to all my fellow Veterans.

File Your Claim Appeal Online

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board, BVA) continues to modernize to meet Veteran needs. The Board recently updated and improved its [website](#) to make sure all the information you need is available and easy to understand. The biggest news is that Veterans can now file their request to appeal to the Board online!

COVID-19 Vaccinations at VA

The Albany VA Medical Center is still providing COVID-19 vaccinations. To schedule an appointment call 518-626-7228, option 2. More information can be found at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>.

100 Heritage Ln, Albany, New York 12211 | (518) 447-7710 | FAX (518) 447-7714
www.AlbanyCounty.com/veterans

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Cares about our veterans



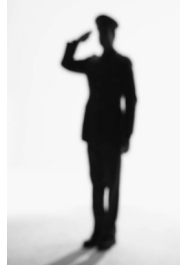
Return The F.A.V.O.R. Discount For Veterans

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>
or call 518-447-7710

PACT Act

June 16, 2022 marked what hopefully will be a historic victory for multiple groups of long-overlooked Veterans and their families. The Honoring Our Promise To Address Comprehensive Toxins Act ("Honoring Our PACT Act") passed the United States Senate by a substantial margin, and now heads to the House, where swift passage is anticipated.

This bill includes a wide range of long-awaited and long-overdue improvements, if enacted some of the things it will include:

New Presumptive Conditions for Exposure to Toxic Fumes from Burn Pits

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Chronic bronchitis | Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease |
| Emphysema | Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis |
| Granulomatous disease | Interstitial lung disease |
| Pleuritis | Pulmonary fibrosis |
| Sarcoidosis | Chronic sinusitis |
| Chronic rhinitis | Glioblastoma |
| Head cancer of any type | Neck cancer of any type |
| Respiratory cancer of any type | Gastrointestinal cancer of any type |
| Lymphoma cancer of any type | Reproductive cancer of any type |
| Kidney cancer | Lymphomatic cancer of any type |
| Brain cancer | Pancreatic cancer |
| Melanoma | |

Veterans who will be covered within this presumption include:

** Veterans who served on or after August 2, 1990, on active duty in any of the following locations (including the airspace above those locations):

| | | |
|---------|----------------------|--------------|
| Bahrain | Iraq | Kuwait |
| Oman | Qatar | Saudi Arabia |
| Somalia | United Arab Emirates | |

** Veterans who served on or after September 11, 2001, on active duty in any of the following locations (including the airspace above those locations):

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-------|
| Afghanistan | Djibouti | Egypt |
| Jordan | Lebanon | Syria |
| Yemen | Uzbekistan | |

"Any other country determined relevant by the VA Secretary."

Adding Hypertension and Monoclonal Gammopathy As Presumptive Conditions for Vietnam War Veterans

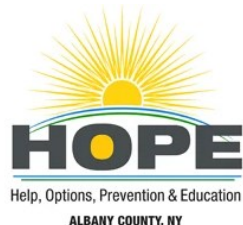
Hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy, a condition in which abnormal proteins are found in the bloodstream, will finally be recognized as an Agent Orange Presumptive Condition.



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 County's suicide and warning prevention app for your smartphone. A source of information if you need help or if you know someone that does. It 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>

PACT Act (Continued)

New Geographic Areas For The Presumption of Agent Orange Exposure

- ** In Thailand at any United States or Royal Thai base during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on June 30, 1976, without regard to where on the base or what military job specialty the Veteran performed
- ** In Laos during the period beginning on December 1, 1965, and ending on September 30, 1969
- ** In Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province during the period beginning on April 16, 1969, and ending on April 30, 1969
- ** On Guam or American Samoa, or in the territorial waters surrounding these areas, during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on July 31, 1980
- ** On Johnston Atoll, or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll, during the period beginning on January 1, 1972, and ending on September 30, 1977

Expanding Health Care Eligibility For Veterans Exposed In Service To Toxins

An additional 3.5 million Veterans nationwide will become eligible for Priority Group 6 in Veterans Health Administration care. All of the Veterans covered under this expansion will be Veterans who were exposed to toxins in service, from Agent Orange exposures to burn pit exposures.

Requiring New Data Collection & Analysis from VA and DoD

The bill requires VA and DoD to engage in multiple new data collection and analysis efforts. It commissions studies focusing on the data concerning cancer among Veterans, medical trends relating to Post-9/11 Veterans, and the feasibility of someday providing Veterans Health Administration care to dependents of Veterans. It requires the VA to conduct outreach and provide resources to toxic-exposed Veterans, and likewise requires the VA to provide standardized training within their own ranks to improve the quality of adjudications of disability compensation claims for medical conditions related to toxic exposures. Lastly, it requires the VA to submit to Congress 180 days after enactment of the law, and annually thereafter, a report detailing the VA's efforts on behalf of Veterans who were exposed to toxic fumes from burn pits, including details about the number of burn pit-related claims the VA has approved and denied and a comprehensive list of "the top 10 conditions from each body system for which the [VA] awarded service connection for covered Veterans."

Discounts & Free Stuff!

Discounts

[Adidas](#) offers 30% discount for active military & veterans on site or in store

[76 Diner](#) in Latham offers a 10% Veterans Discount

[Applebee's](#) gives 10% off for active duty and veterans. Also, on Veterans Day active military and Veterans receive a free meal.

[Regal Colonie Center Movie Tickets](#) Veterans can get up to 25% off on movie tickets when showing military ID at ticket booth.

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New York State Division of Veterans' Services

NYS DVS advocates on behalf of NY Veterans and their families to ensure they receive state and federal benefits granted by law for service in the US Armed Forces. They provide free benefits advising with experienced and dedicated advisors, each a Veteran, to offer Veterans professional help to resolve social, medical, and economic matters. They also manage several state benefits to include a Blind Annuity program, a Gold Star Parent Annuity, and the Veterans Education Bureau.

1-888-VETS-NYS
(1-888-838-7697)



New York State Military Museum

The museum houses over 10,000 artifacts dating from the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm that relate to New York State's military forces, the state's military history and the contributions of New York's veterans. The artifacts include uniforms, weapons, artillery pieces, and art. There is no admission charge to visit the museum or use research center.

61 Lake Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
(518) 581-5100
<http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/mil-hist.htm>

RESOURCES & VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

There are many resources and Veteran organizations within Albany County and a few are shown below. A larger listing is available on our webpage at:

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

American Legion E.T. Ruane Post 476

93 Oneida St.
Cohoes, NY 12047
(518) 235-4989

<http://americanlegionpost476.com>

Monthly meeting:
12pm on fourth Sun

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 Legnard Curtin Post 927

35 Cohoes Ave.
Green Island, NY 12183
518-272-1198

www.facebook.com/groups/180266731995356/

Monthly meeting:
1130am on first Sun

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

American Legion Zaloga Post 1520

4 Everett Rd. Ext.
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 459-1520

<http://zalogapost1520.org>

Monthly meeting:
7pm on second Tue
(except Jul, Aug, & Dec)

Veterans of Foreign War Robert Weininger Post 8692

140 VFW Dr
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 456-7794

www.vfwpost8692.com

Monthly meeting:
7pm on second Mon

American Veterans (AMVETS) EJ Knapik Post 35

PO Box 4152
Schenectady, NY 12304

www.facebook.com/cdnysausa/

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.