

Veterans Service Bureau Newsletter May/June 2019

Daniel P. McCoyAlbany County Executive

Kenneth Secor











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 textmessaging 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

Albany County Veterans Service Bureau's purpose is to provide services to the nearly 20,000 Veterans and their families that call Albany County their home. We are always striving to reach and inform our Veterans of the assistance that we can provide. There are many state and federal benefits available to eligible Veterans that we can inform about and help navigate through the process of applying for them. If you have ever dealt with the US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) or the VA Medical Center, you are aware that they are constantly changing and updating services that they provide. So our hope is that this newsletter will be a great tool to reach Albany County Veterans and provide them with important information regarding benefits, available resources, contact with organizations that support Veterans, and local events for Veterans.

Some of the high profile items in the news with changing guidance recently are Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Agent Orange, and the Camp Lejeune drinking water. In this issue is some information regarding these topics as well as links to more information. We hope you find this informative and will strive to keep providing valuable updated information.

Albany County Veterans Service Bureau is staffed with all Veterans (two with combat service) who have been certified by the American Legion as Veteran Service Officers (VSO). If you would like to speak with a VSO to get more information, file a claim, or find a resource, please use the contact information at the top of this page.

Thank you to all Veterans for your service.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

PTSD is a mental health condition that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault.

It's normal to have upsetting memories, feel on edge, or have trouble sleeping after this type of event. If symptoms last more than a few months, it may be PTSD. The good news is that there are effective treatments.

More information or treatment options can be found at:

https://www.ptsd.va.gov/







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

Agent Orange

The U.S. military used Agent Orange to clear plants and trees during the Vietnam War. If you served in or near Vietnam during the Vietnam Era - or in certain related jobs - you may have had contact with this toxic chemical.

Disability Compensation for Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange

VA *presumes* that some disabilities diagnosed in certain Veterans were caused by exposure to Agent Orange during military service.

You may be able to get disability benefits if both of the below are true for you:

You have an illness believed to be caused by Agent Orange, and
You came into contact with Agent Orange while serving in the military

Agent Orange Related Illnesses

Cancers and other illnesses believed to be caused by contact with Agent Orange:

<u>Chronic B-cell Leukemia</u> <u>Hodgkin's Disease</u>

Multiple Myeloma Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

<u>Prostate Cancer</u>

Soft Tissue Sarcomas

Respiratory Cancers

AL Amyloidosis

<u>Chloracne</u> <u>Diabetes Mellitus Type 2</u> Ischemic Heart Disease Parkinson's Disease

Peripheral Neuropathy, Early Onset Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

A more detailed list of Agent Orange related illnesses can be found at: https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/related-diseases/

If you have an illness that's not on the list of Agent Orange - related illnesses, but you believe it was caused by Agent Orange, you'll need to show the problem started during - or got worse because of - your military service.

You may have had contact with Agent Orange if you served:

On C-123 Airplanes, on Thailand Military Bases, in Vietnam or Korea, outside of Vietnam or Korea, on U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Ships in Vietnam, or in Waters in or near Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975

Or

In Testing and Storage Areas Outside of Vietnam between 1944 and a yet-TBD date.

More information regarding this can be found at: https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/



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

http://www.albanycounty.com/ Government/Departments/ DepartmentofMentalHealth.aspx

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.

You may be able to get disability benefits if both of these are true:

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 separated from military

And must have a diagnosis of one or more of these presumptive conditions:

Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes

Bladder cancer Kidney cancer
Liver cancer Adult leukemia

Multiple myeloma Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

Parkinson's disease

To get these benefits you'll need to file a claim for disability compensation and provide the evidence (supporting documents) listed below:

Military records showing service at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River Medical records stating you have any of the presumptive conditions

American Legion Celebrates 100 Years

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, Service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth.





The **Veterans Miracle Center** is a special place for veterans and activeduty 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 By appointment only





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Albany Stratton VA Medical Center

Stratton VA Medical Center serves Veterans in 22 counties of upstate New York, western Massachusetts and Vermont and operates 11 communitybased outpatient clinics.

113 Holland Avenue Albany, NY 12208 (518) 626-5000 | 800-223-4810 https://www.albany.va.gov/ 800-877-6976

VA Nurse Helpline 24 hour medical advice for Veterans



STRIDE Adaptive Sports

STRIDE's Wounded War-

rior Program provides integrated adaptive sport and recreation activities to men and women of the armed forces who have been injured in combat.

4482 NY Highway 150 West Sand Lake, NY 12196 (518) 598-1279 https://www.stride.org/sports/ wounded-warriors/

RESOURCES

Albany Housing Coalition

Battlefield & Beyond

Capital District Women Veterans

Military Family Foundation

Military One Source

National Resource Directory (NRD)

NY Connects

NYS Division of Military & Naval Affairs

NYS Division of Veterans Affairs

NYS Industries for Disabled (NYSID)

Operation At Ease

Patriot Flight Capital Region NY

Soldier On

STRIDE Adaptive Sports

The Legal Project

Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

Veterans Crisis Line

Warriors Haven

US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)

VA/eBenefits

VA/Saratoga National Cemetary

VA/Stratton VA Medical Center

VA/Vet Center

Veteran Connect Center (VCC)

Veterans Miracle Center

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

American Gold Star Mothers

American Legion

American Legion Helderberg Post 977

American Legion Blanchard Post 1040

American Legion Zaloga Post 1520

American Legion North Albany Post 1610

AmVets NYS Capital District Post 35

AUSA Capital District

Blue Star Mothers Capital Region NY2

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Jewish War Veterans

Marine Corps League-W.D. OBrien Det 241

Patriot Guard Riders New York

Rolling Thunder New York 5

Submarine Vets Albany-Saratoga Base

Team RWB

Tri-County Council Vietnam Era Veterans

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

VFW Watervliet Post 729

VFW Sheehy-Palmer Post 6776

VFW Weininger Post 8692

VFW Wigand Post 8444

All organizations listed here are active links to their webpages



Veterans of Foreign War Wm. F. Wigand Post 8444

370 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206 (518) 465-6992

https://

www.facebook.com/ Wigand-Post-8444-117247008294450/

Monthly meeting: 6pm on second Tue



American Legion J.E. 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)



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 American Legion Zaloga Post (4 Everett Rd Ext, Albany)



	UPCOMING VI	ETERAN EV	ENTS
1&2-May	Defensive Driving Course for Veterans	5-8pm	Beltrone Living Center, Colonie
4-May	Capital District Patriot Flight *		Albany to Washington, DC
6-May	Honor A Veteran Ceremony * (William Heiserman, USMC)	830am	Colonie Elks, Latham
11-May	Leatherstocking Honor Flight		Albany to Washington, DC
13-May	Legacy Project Golf Tournament *	9am	Pinehaven Country Club, Guilderland
14-May	Therapy Dog Training class	6pm	Operation At Ease, Schenectady
15-May	Fishing for Freedom *	6-11am	Springer Welding & Marina, Albany
17-May	Faces of Veterans – Patriot Images *	9am-1pm	American Legion Zaloga Post, Albany
18-May	Armed Forces Day		
18-May	Defensive Driving Course for Veterans	9am-5pm	Beltrone Living Center, Colonie
18-May	NY Military Memorial Wall *	9am-5pm	Times Union Center, Albany
19-May	NY Military Memorial Wall *	1-5pm	Times Union Center, Albany
22-May	Colonie Memorial Day Ceremony	6pm	The Crossings, Colonie
23-May	Therapy Dog Training class	730pm	Operation At Ease, Schenectady
24-May	USPS Memorial Day Ceremony	10am	Karner Rd Postal Facility, Colonie
24-May	Maplewood Vol. FD Memorial Day Parade	630pm	Cohoes
24-May	Colonie VFW Memorial Service	7pm	Colonie VFW Post 8692, Colonie
25-May	Memorial Day Ceremony *	11am	GBHS Saratoga National Cemetery
26-May	President Arthu <mark>r Memo</mark> rial Ceremony (O'Brien Det Marine Corps League)	10am	Albany Rural Cemetery
27-May	Memorial Day		
27-May	City of Albany Memorial Day Parade	930am	Albany
27-May	Albany Memorial Day Service	11am	Lafayette Park, Albany
3-Jun	Honor A Veteran Ceremony * (Charles Boone, USAAF)	830am	American Legion Blanchard Post, Delma
7-9-Jun	NY Run For The Fallen		Syracuse to Albany
9-Jun	NY Run For The Fallen Ceremony	220pm	Gold Star Monument, Albany
10-Jun	AUSA Golf Tournament *	9am	Eagle Crest Golf Course, Clifton Park
11-Jun	Honor A Living Veteran Ceremony	10am	Crossgates Mall, Guilderland
11-Jun	Military Awareness Expo *	10am-2pm	Crossgates Mall, Guilderland
14-Jun	Army Birthday		
15-Jun	Strides for STRIDE 5k *	9am	Jennings Landing, Albany
15-Jun	Bourgault Band Benefit - Overseas Veterans Assoc *	6-9pm	VFW Post, Watervliet
1-Jul	Honor A Veteran Ceremony * (Michael Aidala, NYARNG)	830am	VFW Post 8692, Colonie
15-Jul	Veterans Golf Scramble *	9am	Colonie Country Club, Voorheesville
29-Jul	Toys for Tots Golf Tournament *	11am	Edison Club, Rexford
•	Veterans Service Bureau at ACCESS Hilltowns	1230-230pm	Berne Community Center
Every Friday	TGIV Breakfast	8am	Gateway Diner, Albany
Every Friday	Art 4 Vets	9am-12pm	American Legion Zaloga Post, Albany
* Indicates eve	nt flyer is included at the end of this newsletter		



Albany County together with the Times Union Center Present:





Please join the Albany County Veterans Service Bureau for this tribute to New York's fallen Military Service-members

May 18, 2019 May 19, 2019

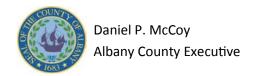
9:00am - 5:00pm 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Times Union Center

Displays will be located by the entrance at 3rd level of the parking garage

Remembering Our Fallen is a photographic war memorial that honors our state's military fallen from The War on Terror (9/11/2001 - Present). Its legacy will be that these men and women will be remembered and their names will be spoken, while helping to lessen the grief of their families.

NY Warrior Promise Wall, a new photographic memorial to those men and women who lost their battle with PTSD, will be unveiled for the first time to local families of the fallen.









Tuesday, June 11, 2019
10:00AM - 2:00PM
Crossgates
Lower Level by Lord & Taylor

REAL INFORMATION to support our

Service Members and their Families PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE







Daniel P. McCoy Albany County Executive

CROSSGATES





for more information, visit: www.shopcrossgates.com/events



"The Legacy Project" Capital Region Veterans Memorial

1st Annual Golf Tournament Monday, May 13th, 2019 PINEHAVEN COUNTRY CLUB 1151 SIVER RD.

Guilderland, NY 12084



Registration-8:00 am- 9:30 am Shot Gun Start- 9:30 am Cocktail Reception- 2:00 pm Luncheon- 3:00 pm Award ceremony- 4:00 pm Raffles- 4:30 pm For more information, contact Tournament Chairperson, Mary Brandt (518) 495-2524

"A TRIBUTE TO CAPITAL REGION VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES"

Albany County Honor-A-Vet



Please join us in honoring

William T. Heiserman
USMC

Monday, May 6, 2019

8:30 a.m. Colonie Elks Lodge 11 Elks Lane, Latham, NY 12110

Hosted By

Hon. Daniel P. McCoy, County Executive Hon. Paul Tonko, 20th Congressional District Kenneth Secor, Albany County Veterans Service Bureau Director



Fishing For Freedom

A Day Of Fishing To Honor Our Veterans

Wednesday, May 15, 2019
At C. Springer Welding Works & Marina

5 Broadway, Albany, NY

Boats Leave The Docks At 6am And Return at 11am Lunch To Follow!

Boats and Volunteers generously participating in this event:

Daybreak II Charters Farmer Style LegaCy Charters

Monster Hunter Charters Reel Addiction Outfitters & Guide Service

> Collar City Striper Crew Springer's Marina

H&L On The Hudson
For Further Information And Donations Contact Suzan:
518-283-5652

suzanbhenry@gmail.com



Memorial Day Ceremony

*Saturday, May 25th at 11:00am GBHS Saratoga National Cemetery

at the Main Flagpole Assembly Area

There will be seating available (lawnchairs are allowed)

VIP - Handicap - General Parking

(parking within the cemetery during the ceremony will be limited)



*Please note this years ceremony is on Saturday

Albany County Honor-A-Vet



Please join us in honoring

Charles E. Boone
USAAF

Monday, June 3, 2019

8:30 a.m. American Legion Blanchard Post 1040 16 W. Poplar Drive, Delmar, NY 12054

Hosted By

Hon. Daniel P. McCoy, County Executive Hon. Paul Tonko, 20th Congressional District Kenneth Secor, Albany County Veterans Service Bureau Director



Cohoes, NY 12047

Player 4:_



Great course for a PR - USATF
Registered Event on a fast, flat course

Prizes will be awarded for the 5K Run

5K registrants receive 2019 t-shirt, custom bib, and goodle bag

2K Community Awareness Walk accessible to everyone, regardless of disability or fitness level

Free 100 yard dash Tot Run for children under 5; prizes for all!

8 am

Event Registration

9 am

2K Community Awareness Walk

10 an

5K Run/Wheelchair Roll

11 am

100-yd-dash Tot Run

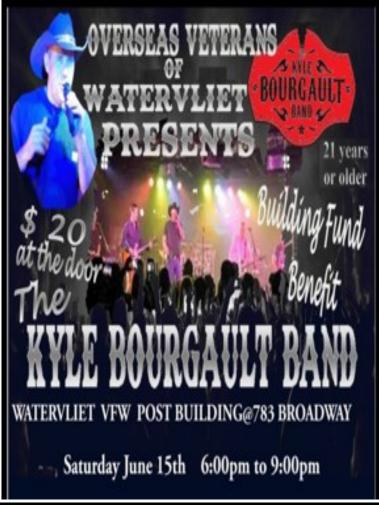
Jenning's Landing, Albany, NY

Bringing awareness to equality in opportunity for participation in sport and recreation programs

Fun for the whole family!

All proceeds support STRIDE Adaptive Sports special needs youth and local wounded warriors programs

Questions? Email phayslett@stride.org or 518-598-1249



Albany County Honor-A-Vet



Please join us in honoring

Michael J. Aidala NYARNG

Monday, July 1, 2019

8:30 a.m. Colonie VFW Post 8692 140 VFW Drive, Colonie, NY 12205

Hosted By

Hon. Daniel P. McCoy, County Executive Hon. Paul Tonko, 20th Congressional District Kenneth Secor, Albany County Veterans Service Bureau Director



Please join us as we honor LTC Lynn Currier and MSG Lisa Currier's Retirement at the 42d Infantry Division 2019 Rainbow Classic Golf Tournament July 12, 2019

Events - Please select your desired choices from below. Payments must be received by July 5, 2019

42d Infantry Division 2019 Rainbow Classic – Friday, July 12, 2019 – \$80.00 per person

Location: Frear Park Golf Course, 2701 Lavin Court, Troy, NY 12180.

Time: 8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration and Breakfast Buffet

9:00 - 2:00 PM Shotgun Start 18 Hole Scramble

2:00 pm Retirement Luncheon



Team Captain	Phone Number	N B
Team Member #2	Team Member #3	
Team Member #4		

Ple	ease Indicate Number Attending	
Name(s):	Ŷ <u></u>	
Time; 2:0	00 PM.	
Location:	Park Pub 2701 Lavin Court. Trov. NY 12180.	

Make checks reveable to the "The Last Drop Club".

Please return this form with your selections and appropriate payment (Check or Cash) to:

JFHQ's, Attention: MSG Lisa Currier (MNL),

330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110,

Questions to lisa currier mil@mail.mil or

(518) 788-6122.

Uniform: Casual

 Event
 #Attend
 Total

 Rainbow Classic
 __x \$80.00
 __

 Retirement Luncheon
 __x \$30.00
 __

 Total Enclosed
 \$

6th Annual **VETERANS' SCRAMBLE**

To benefit homeless veterans

July 15, 2019

colonie country club Route 85A Doorneesuille, ny

9AM SHOTGUN START

- CHECK IN BEGINS 7:30AM

- \$100 PER GOLFER INCLUDES GOLF, CART + LUNCH

- PRIZES TO BE GIVEN
- SIGN UP FORMS AND PAYMENT DUE BY JULY 9, 2019

Capital Region Toys for Tots 2019 Golf Tournament

Join us in supporting children in need in our local community!

July 29°, 2019 at the Edison Club in Rexford, NY.

\$550 for a Foursome or \$145 Per Single Player

Register today to get 18 holes on a beautiful, private golf course with cart use and club rentals if needed as well as raffles, giveaways, food, and drinks throughout the day.

- Registration begins at 10:00am.
- Lunch and Giveaways prior to golf.
 - Shotgun start at 12:00pm.
 - Dinner and raffles after golf.

Sponsorship opportunities available!

Don't lose your spot! Please register at:

https://forms.gle/iGwZuhYpyhgdBy1K8

Questions? Contact Shelby at shansen@capitalregiontoysfortots.org



Great food. people and music!

KSU AT

Registration starts @ 9:30am

Raffle, Chinese Auction, Games, Prizes

Admissions

\$25 - Rider

\$15 - Passenger

\$15 - Picnic

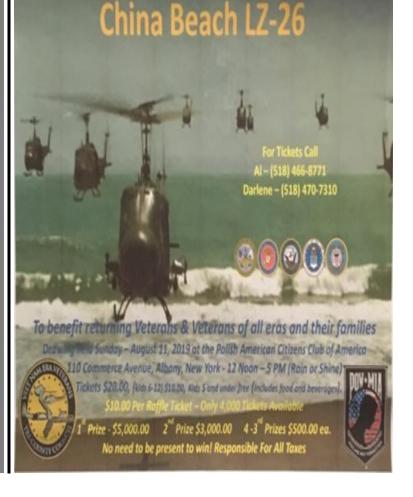
Where?

Poestenkill VFW POST 7466

25 Veterans St Poestenkill, NY 12140 Proceeds to benefit local veterans









Arts & Healing Retreat for Women Veterans

Monday August 12-14, 2019 at Historic Wiawaka Center for Women, Lake George, New York

Join us for 2 days of friendship and renewal on the shores of beautiful Lake George. Workshops in art, music and dreamwork with a supportive community of like minded women.

\$399 includes:

- * All meals and accommodations
- * Workshops, crafts, music and fun activities

* Optional massage from a licensed Massage Therapist

A limited number of scholarships are available, please ask.

Register by August 1st at

www.creativehealingconnections.org or call 518-578-1541

