



County of Albany Veterans Service Bureau Newsletter

July/August 2019

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

May and June proved to be busy months with many Veteran events within the County. I am proud to serve the Veterans of Albany County and to participate in so many of these events. It was truly great to see all the Veterans and organizations honoring our fallen on Memorial Day so they are never forgotten. Some of my highlight moments were placing flags at cemeteries, the Memorial Day ceremony that followed the City of Albany Memorial Day Parade, and the 2nd Annual Military Awareness Expo held at Crossgates Mall. Thank you to all the Veterans and organizations that held Memorial Day events and made the Military Awareness Expo such a success.

In this issue we will discuss our outreach services to Westerlo, new flag collection box, the VA's Mission Act, changes at the NYS Division of Veterans Affairs, application for discharge upgrade, and Blue Water Navy Act.

Thank you to all Veterans for your service.

Veteran Services to Hilltowns

In an effort to reach more Veterans we have expanded our services into the Hilltowns. For almost a year now services have been available at ACCESS Hilltowns at the Berne Community Center every Tuesday from 12-230pm. In May we expanded and now provide those same services at the Westerlo Reformed Church every Tuesday from 930-1130am.

Feel free to stop in to either location if you have any questions about benefits or services.

Flag Collection Box

On June 14th Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy unveiled a new flag collection box in honor of Flag Day to support the proper and respectful etiquette of retiring the symbols of our nation when they become worn out and tattered.

The flag box, serving as a place to bring Old Glory, is located on the first floor of Crossgates Mall near Lord & Taylor.

Worn flags can also be dropped off at most American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts.

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>

VA Mission Act

Last June, President Trump signed landmark legislation, known as the [VA MISSION Act of 2018](#), that makes dramatic improvements to how Veterans receive community care - health care provided outside of VA. VA's goal is to give Veterans greater choice over their health care, allowing VA to deliver world-class, seamless customer service either through a VA facility or community provider.

VA was required to implement major parts of the new Veterans Community Care Program under the MISSION Act by June 6, 2019.

Veterans should expect a fairly transparent and seamless transition to the new Veterans Community Care Program. After June 6, VA cannot furnish care under the Veterans Choice Program (VCP). The two other most important changes that become effective on June 6 include:

New [eligibility criteria](#), which will go into effect for Veteran community care.

A new [urgent care](#) benefit, which will become available.

Veterans should continue to talk with their VA care team about the best way to get the care they need - either from a VA medical facility or community provider. As they do now, Veterans may also need to pay a copayment for care for nonservice-connected conditions, just as they would if they received care at a VA medical facility. Special copayment rules apply to the new urgent care benefit.

Resources:

[Fact Sheet - Veteran Community Care - Current vs. Future State \(VA MISSION\)](#)

[Fact Sheet - Veteran Community Care - Sunset of Veterans Choice Program](#)

Changes at NYS Division of Veteran Affairs It was recently announced that retired US Army Colonel James McDonough Jr would be appointed as the new Director of the New York Division of Veterans' Services. The appointment comes simultaneously with the name change of the agency to the **New York State Division of Veterans' Services**. The name change is meant to eliminate confusion between the State agency which advocates on behalf of Veterans and its federal counterpart. The name change is effective immediately.



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>

Discharge Upgrade Possibility

If you feel that you wrongfully received a less-than-honorable discharge from the military, we may be able to help. We can assist in preparing and filing discharge upgrade applications to the Discharge Review Board or the Board for Corrections of Military Records for each branch of the military.

Additionally, New York is the first state in the nation to offer Veterans free access to a Discharge Upgrade Advisory Board. Comprised of seven attorneys, this Advisory Board can provide a non-binding advisory opinion to Veterans with discharge upgrade appeals that a majority of the Board's members deem to be meritorious. This advisory opinion can be strong evidence for the Veteran to include in his or her appeal to the Discharge Review Board or the Board for Corrections.

Veterans wishing to submit a package of evidence for the Discharge Upgrade Advisory Board to review should mail all relevant documents to:

New York State Discharge Upgrade Advisory Board
New York State Division of Veterans' Services
2 Empire State Plaza, Floor 17
Albany, N.Y. 12223.

Veterans may also mail a CD containing electronic copies of their evidence to the same address.

For a list of useful documents to include in an appeal packet for a discharge upgrade, please [click here](#).

Blue Water Navy Act

H.R. 299 expands benefits to an estimated 90,000 Vietnam Veterans and their families after exposure to Agent Orange, an herbicide that is associated with various diseases, including cancer and diabetes, that was sprayed to remove vegetation providing enemy cover during the Vietnam War.

This law will make all Veterans that were serving on ships within 12 nautical miles of the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia eligible for the presumptive conditions of Agent Orange exposure. The new law goes into effect on January 1, 2020.

The Agent Orange presumptive conditions can be found at: <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/related-diseases/>

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

ALBANY COUNTY
Cares about our veterans



The BATTLEFIELD & BEYOND

For the past 11 years they have been collecting signed cards and mailing them to our Troops and bout 2 years ago started doing it more often. Now they send not just cards but personal hygiene, special snacks, clothing and a few fun things to our Troops serving all over the world.

413 Feura Bush Rd
Glenmont, NY 12077
(518) 527-5663
<https://thebattlefieldbeyond.org/>



Veteran Connect Center (VCC)

The Center creates a one-stop-shop to provide information and connections to Veterans and transitioning soldiers by identifying employment opportunities, educational programs, and community resources. This resource is available to all Military, Veterans, spouses, and family members.

203 Central Ave
Schenectady, NY 12304
(518) 847-9941
<https://veteranconnectcenter.org/>

Saratoga National Cemetery Honor Guard Association

Provides ceremonial burial services for honorably discharged veterans at the Saratoga National Cemetery.

Currently in need of volunteers.

200 Duell Road,
Schuylerville, NY, 12871
<http://www.snchga.com/>

RESOURCES

[Albany Housing Coalition](#)
[Art 4 Vets](#)
[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 Cemetery](#)
[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 Robert. L. Weininger Post 8692

140 VFW Road
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 456-7794
<http://www.vfwpost8692.com/>

Monthly meeting:
7pm on second Mon



American Legion Nathaniel Adams Blanchard Post 1040

16 W. Poplar Drive
Delmar, NY 12054
(518) 439-9819
<http://nabpost1040.us/>

Monthly meeting:
7pm on first 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. Leg. Zaloga Post
(4 Everett Rd Ext, Albany)

**UPCOMING VETERAN EVENTS**

12-Jul	42nd Infantry Division Golf Tournament *	8am	Frear Park, Troy
13-Jul	20th Anniversary Observance With Buglers Across Saratoga *	11am	G.B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery
15-Jul	Blood Drive	730am-2pm	Albany VAMC
15-Jul	Veterans Golf Scramble *	9am	Colonie Country Club, Voorheesville
18-Jul	Valley Cats Veterans Night / Veteran Connect Center Fundraiser *	6pm	Bruno Stadium, Troy
20-Jul	Homeless Veterans Ride - Veterans MC *	10am	Rotterdam Elks, Schenectady
29-Jul	ACCESS Hilltowns 2 Year Anniversary & Resource Fair *	1130am-2pm	Berne Senior & Community Center
29-Jul-19	Toys for Tots Golf Tournament *	11am	Edison Club, Rexford
5-Aug-19	Albany County Honor A Veteran Ceremony (Frank Lasch, USN) *	830am	USS Slater, Albany
10-Aug-19	Upstate Thunder Run - Rolling Thunder *	11am	VFW Post 7466, Poestenkill
11-Aug-19	China Beach Event	12-5pm	Polish American Citizens Club, Albany
12-Aug-19	Blue Spangled Gala - Saratoga War Horse	630-930pm	Hall of Springs, Saratoga
12-14 Aug	Arts & Healing Retreat for Women Veterans		Wiawaka Center for Women, Lake George
17-Aug-19	Cruisin for Tots Car Show - Toys for Tots *	10am-2pm	Schaticoke
24-Aug	Helderberg American Legion Riders Poker Run *	1030am	Helderberg American Legion, Altamont
26-Aug	STRIDE 2nd Annual Brew Fest	5pm	Nine Pin, Albany
3-Sep-19	Albany County Honor A Veteran Ceremony (Thomas Magliocca, USCG)	830am	TBD
14-Sep	LTC Todd Clark Memorial Golf Tournament		Western Avenue Golf Course
15-Sep	American Legion 100th Anniversary Celebration & Open House	1-4pm	American Legion Zaloga Post, Albany
15-Sep-19	Tunnel to Towers Tower Climb	9am-12pm	Corning Tower, Empire State Plaza, Albany
22-Sep-19	22 Benefit Walk/Run	2pm	Lawson Lake, Feura Bush
5-Oct-19	Eastern NY Homeless Veterans Stand Down		Colonie Elks, Latham
7-Oct-19	Albany County Honor A Veteran Ceremony (Joseph Rhatigan)	830am	American Legion North Albany Post
Every Tuesday	Veterans Service Bureau at Westerlo	930-1130am	Westerlo Reformed Church
Every Tuesday	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 event flyer is included at the end of this newsletter



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 _____

Team Member #2 _____ Team Member #3 _____

Team Member #4 _____

LTC Currier and MSG Currier Retirement Luncheon – Friday, July 12, 2019 – \$30.00 per person

☐ Please Indicate Number Attending

Name(s): _____

Time: 2:00 PM.

Location: Park Pub 2701 Lavin Court, Troy, NY 12180.

Uniform: Casual



Make checks payable 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.

Event	#Attend	Total
Rainbow Classic	_____ x \$80.00	_____
Retirement Luncheon	_____ x \$30.00	_____
Total Enclosed	\$	_____



**GERALD B. H. SOLOMON
SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY**

20TH

ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE

WITH BUGLERS ACROSS SARATOGA

**SATURDAY
JULY 13, 2019
11:00 AM**

**200 DUELL ROAD
SCHUYLerville NY
(518) 581-9128**



6th Annual

**VETERANS'
GOLF
SCRAMBLE**

To benefit homeless veterans

July 15, 2019

**Colonie Country Club
Route 85A
 Voorheesville, 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



THU, JUL 18 AT 6 PM - 10 PM

**Veteran Connect Center
FUN-draiser at the Tri-City
ValleyCats: Military...**

Tri-City Valleycats · Troy, NY

Tickets · \$26.50
via Eventbrite

Details

Buffet begins at 6 pm / Game starts at 7 pm

Includes: All You Can Eat Pre-game Buffet: marinated chicken, beef sliders, hot dogs, salt potatoes, coleslaw, watermelon, soda, and water; Souvenir ValleyCats Cap; Reserved Box seating

Bring the Family!!

Please contact Karen Wolff with any questions: Karenw@ceg.org

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED!



Welcome Home!
**VETERANS
NIGHT**



Thursday, July 18, 2019, 7:00 PM First Pitch



Joseph L. Bruno Stadium

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

For more information and tickets,
please call the Albany VA Medical Center at 518-626-6277

ACCESS Hilltowns

2ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It has been 2 years since Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy cut the ribbon on the ACCESS Hilltowns office in the senior & community center. To celebrate we will be hosting a Community Resource Fair.

Monday, July 29, 2019

11:30am - 2:00pm

Berne Senior and Community Center

1360 Helderberg Trail, Berne, NY 12023

ALBANY COUNTY COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT:

Heating & Cooling Assistance (HEAP) • Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Transportation • Health Insurance Counseling • Medicare/Medicaid • Legal Services
Home Repairs & Modifications • Mental Health Services
Alzheimer's Disease • Long Term Services & Support • Veteran's Services

Questions? Call Viola Lipscomb (518) 447-7362 or Eileen Bosworth (518) 447-4996



Daniel P. McCoy
Albany County Executive

ALBANY COUNTY
Cares about our community



Veterans Motorcycle Club 13th Annual Homeless Veterans Ride



Saturday July 20, 2019

Registration: 10:00am

SPONSORED
BY

WAL-MART
DC 6041

Kickstands Up At Noon!

Starting at: Rotterdam Elks Lodge
1152 Curry Rd
Schenectady, NY 12306

Homeless and
Veteran are two
words that should
never be used
together!

\$20 Donation for Admission

All Riders Welcome

Follow us on FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/VMCNY8>



In Memory of
Donald Birch



Capital Region Toys for Tots

2019 Golf Tournament

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

July 29th, 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/1GwZuhVpyhgdBy1K8>

Questions? Contact Shelby at shansen@capitalregiontoysfortots.org

Albany County Honor-A-Vet



Please join us in honoring

Frank J. Lasch

USN

Monday, August 5, 2019

8:30 a.m.

USS Slater

Broadway and Quay, Albany, NY 12202

Hosted By

Hon. Daniel P. McCoy, County Executive

Hon. Paul Tonko, 20th Congressional District

Kenneth Secor, Albany County Veterans Service Bureau Director

ROLLING THUNDER

ANNUAL UPSTATE THUNDER RUN

2019

Event KSU AT

Great food, people and music!

11:00 AM

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

ROLLING THUNDER, INC.

HIDE FOR FREEDOM

HARLEY-DAVIDSON CYCLES

3rd Annual Cruisin' for tots

TOYS FOR TOTS

\$25 Per person
Only 150 tickets available
Buy tickets in advance

SANDRA'S FINE JEWELRY

LT'S GRILL

Lunch by:

AUG 4TH 2019
4:00PM TO 7:30PM
GATES OPEN 3:00 PM BOARD AT 3:30PM
141 Broadway
Albany NY 12202

Dutch Apple CRUISES & TOURS of ALBANY, NEW YORK

Cash Bar MUSIC 50/50

Live Auction

All proceeds benefit Capital Region Toys for Tots

Receive (1) commemorative T-Shirt per person



Tickets are available at JJ's Cycle

Any questions contact Scotty (518)986-5522

Like us on facebook



7th Annual POKER RUN

Helderberg American Legion Riders Post # 977

Altamont

To Benefit:

Area Veterans Programs

August 24th 2019

LEATHERSTOCKING

HONOR FLIGHT

WOODS FOR WARRIORS

China Beach LZ-26

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



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

Drawing held Sunday - August 11, 2019 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 \$3,000.00 4-3rd Prizes \$500.00 ea.

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



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

1st Annual

Cruisin for tots Car Show

Bring
unwrapped toy



Cars Motorcycles Trucks
SATURDAY AUG 17TH 2019

11 Buttermilk Falls Road
Schaghticoke, NY 12154

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

\$10.00 @
ADMISSION



Thank you to the Graveyarders for the use of the site and their guidance

Proceeds to benefit Capital Region Tots for Tots

Rain Date Sunday Aug 18th 2019
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR PETS AT HOME

cruisinfortots.weebly.com
FIND US ON FACEBOOK



For more information Contact Scotty (518)986-5522

Helderberg American Legion Riders Post # 977
Altamont

7th Annual

POKER RUN

To Benefit:
Area Veterans Programs

August 24th 2019

(rain or shine)

Registration: 8:30 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.
KSU - 10:30

REGISTRATION & RIDE STARTS AT:

Voorheesville Fire Dept.

12 Altamont Rd. (Rte. 156)

Voorheesville, NY 12186

Breakfast sandwiches & coffee available

\$25.00 per person

RIDE ENDS:

Altamont Legion Post # 977

988 Altamont Blvd.
Altamont, NY 12009

As Always:
Great Food
at the Finish

For More Information:

Call 861-6848 after 4:00 pm

email: airpost977@yahoo.com

or see us on facebook

