

Veterans Service Bureau Newsletter

July/August 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

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.







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 <u>VA</u> <u>MISSION Act of 2018</u>, 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 <u>eligibility criteria</u>, which will go into effect for Veteran community care.

A new <u>urgent care</u> 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/





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 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 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 Tot <mark>s Golf To</mark> urnament *	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 E <mark>vent</mark>	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		
1 '	Veterans Service Bureau at Westerlo	930-1130am	Westerlo Reformed Church		
1 '	Veterans Service Bureau at ACCESS Hilltowns	1230-230pm	Berne Community Center		
Every Friday	TGIV Breakfast	8am	Gat <mark>eway Diner</mark> , Albany		
Every Friday	Art 4 Vets	9am-12pm	American Legion Zaloga Post, Albany		

* Indicates event flyer is included at the end of this newsletter





Team Captain

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 Member #2	Team Member #3	
Team Member #4		
LTC Currier and MSG Currier Retirement Lu	uncheon – Friday, July 12, 2019 – \$	30.00 per person
Please Indicate Number Attending Name(s):		
Time: 2:00 PM.	V 12180	

Phone Number

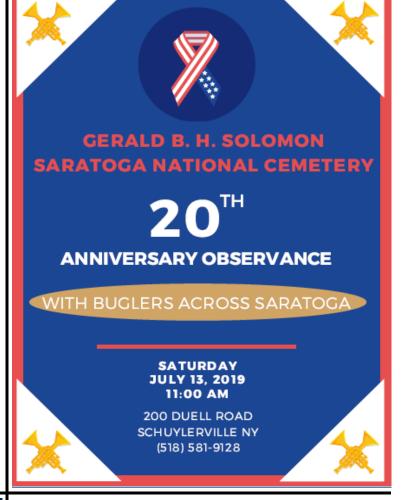
Make checks payable to the "The Last Drop Club"

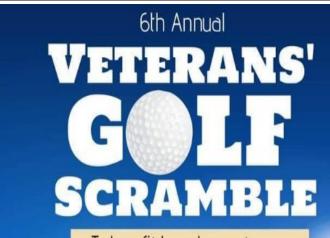
Uniform: Casual

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. (518) 786-6122.

Event Rainbow Classic x \$80.00 Retirement Luncheon ×\$30.00 Total Enclosed







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



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

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





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VETERANS

HOUSING AND SERVICES

Veterans Motorcycle Club 13th Annual **Homeless Veterans Ride**



Saturday July 20, 2019

Registration: 10:00am

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**



ACCESS Hilltowns

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



BANY COUNTY **W**about our community

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

estions? 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

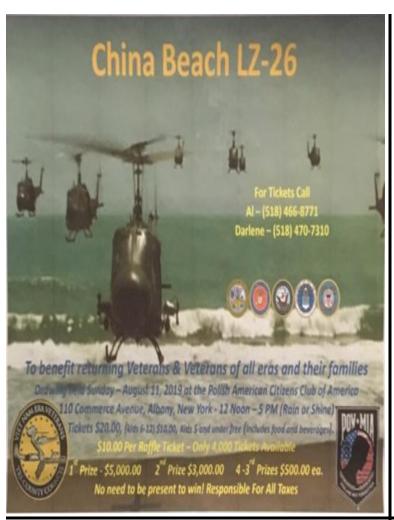


Helderberg American Legion Riders Post # 977

Altamont









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



