



Rensselaer County Veterans Newsletter

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County Executive

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Director

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Capital District Patriot Flight Inc. FLIGHT MAY 16, 2015



Capital District Region
HONORING OUR VETERANS

Van Transportation...

- * *Don't drive* and need to get to the VA Medical Center?
- * We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC for **most morning** medical appointments.

For more information please call (518) 270-2760.



2015 VA Benefit Rates

- 10% - \$133.17
- 20% - \$263.23
- 30% - \$407.75
- 40% - \$587.36
- 50% - 836.13
- 60% - \$1059.09
- 70% - \$1334.71
- 80% - \$1551.48
- 90% - \$1743.48
- 100% - 2906.83

DIC- \$1254.19
Veteran Pension- \$1072.00
Widow Pension - \$719.00

Taking WW II, Korean & Vietnam Veterans To Visit the Memorials in Washington DC

Patriot Flight PO Box 190 Delmar NY 12054

Call 518-426-0461 or 956-0587 or 459-2857 x 331

Web Patriotflight.com

fomservice@aol.com

Your Financial Support Makes This Possible

Your Capital District Patriot Flight Inc.

Part of the National Honor Flight Network started in 2008

A Message From the Veterans Service Agency Director.....

State Senator Kathy Marchione has informed us of a new “Honor Our Heroes” program. Members of the Armed Forces, who received a Bronze Star Medal (BSM), or a higher award for valor, may receive a decal of the given award upon completing the application, available in our office.

Remember to register all veterans’ service with the Veterans Hall (the former Freihoffer Building at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds). Forms are available here at the County Veterans Office in Troy, or during the fair. Please help us to ensure that all of our living and deceased veterans associated with Rensselaer County are remembered. A special thank you goes to all those involved with the Vet Hall. Please stop by when you can during the fair.

Our “Honor a Deceased Veteran” ceremonies continue to be held monthly on the second Monday of each month in the Legislative Chambers here in the County Office Building. Please fill out an application, so that every deceased veteran associated with Rensselaer County may be remembered, and properly honored. Applications are available on the County Website, or in our office.

On the same note, Memorial Day is right around the corner. Please remember to place flags on our veterans’ graves; and to recover the flags after Memorial Day, by the end of the following weekend.

Thank you for all that you do for our veterans.

Sincerely,
Peter K. Goebel

Welcome Home A Program Of Albany Housing Coalition, Inc.

HOMELESS? FACING EVICTION?

The Albany Housing Coalition’s WELCOME HOME program delivers a wide variety of services to homeless veterans and veterans at-risk of homelessness with their partners in Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer counties. Case managers and veterans, together, create sustainable Housing Plans that may include:

DIRECT CONTACT

Sam Wiggins
Case Manager
(518)504-0352
s.wiggins@ahcvets.org

Daniel Forant
Case Manager
(518) 504-0293
d.forant@ahcvets.org

- Temporary financial assistance
- Employment
- Rental assistance
- Utility-fee payment assistance
- Deposits (security or utility)
- Emergency supplies
- Transportation
- Housing search and placement assistance
- Legal assistance
- Veteran-to-veteran mentoring
- Financial counseling, coaching and budgeting.

Albany Housing Coalition, Inc.
278 Clinton Avenue
Albany, NY 12210
www.ahcvets.org
Office: (518) 465-5251

Upcoming Events...



Call our office to inquiry about listing your event

March 29th...Veterans’ Law Day at the Albany Law School @ 80 New Scotland Ave., Albany from 10am-3pm, Veterans and service members may make an appointment to meet with a pro bono attorney by calling (518) 445-2365.

March 30th—April 3rd....Boots to Business REBOOT Monday –Friday from 11:30am-1:00pm-lunch provided at no cost at the Michael R. McNulty Center for the Veteran Entrepreneurial Activity located at the Watervliet Arsenal, registration required by 3/25/15. Please contact Amy Amoroso @ (518)380-5069 or Kathy Caruso @ (518)326-5522.

April 13th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony—County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am:

Charles W. Straub, US Army, Vietnam Era

May 16th...Capital District Patriot Flight, please see page 1 for more info.

May 11th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony-County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am....TBA

TRICARE Copayments for Prescriptions

New copayments for prescription drugs covered by TRICARE will go into effect February 1, 2015. The Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requires TRICARE to increase most pharmacy copays by \$3. Drugs from military pharmacies and generic drugs from TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery still cost beneficiaries \$0.

TRICARE pharmacy copays vary based on the class of drug and where beneficiaries choose to fill their prescriptions. Home Delivery copays for formulary brand name drugs are going from \$13 to \$16, and for non-formulary from \$43 to \$46. You can get up to a 90-day supply of drugs through Home Delivery. At the retail pharmacy network, copays for generic formulary drugs go from \$5 to \$8, brand name formulary go from \$17 to \$20 and non-formulary from \$44 to \$47. You can get up to a 30-day supply of drugs at retail pharmacies.

Some pharmacy copays are not changing in 2015. Military pharmacies remain the lowest cost option for beneficiaries, with no cost for drugs, and generic formulary medications at Home Delivery remain \$0. Home Delivery <<http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery>> is a low cost, safe and convenient way for TRICARE beneficiaries to get their maintenance medications. Copays at non-network retail pharmacies will also change, based on the changes to retail copays. For more details, visit the TRICARE pharmacy costs <<http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacycosts>> page.

These changes in the NDAA overrule previous rules passed by Congress in 2013 that connected TRICARE pharmacy copays to the retiree cost of living adjustment (COLA).

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Martins Point Health Care
125 Wolf Road, Suite 204
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Eligibility for Camp Lejeune Benefits Expanded

Veterans and their families who lived at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between Aug. 1, 1953 and Dec. 31, 1987 may be eligible for VA health benefits. A Dec. 12 law changed the eligibility date from Jan. 1, 1957 to Aug. 1, 1953.

Veterans: [Enroll online](#) or call 1-877-222-8387 for help.

Family members: You may be eligible for reimbursement of out-of-pocket medical expenses for 15 conditions. [Apply online](#) or call 1-866-372-1144 for help.

Visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune to learn more.

**OPERA SARATOGA ANNOUNCES SUPPORT OF THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE LONG WALK*
AND COMMUNITY EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE PREMIERE**

The first free event will take place on Thursday, March 12th, 2015 at 7:00 PM: SARATOGA SINGS OF WAR AND HOMECOMING - THE MAKING OF A WORLD PREMIERE. This free event will be hosted by the New York State Military Museum, 61 Lake Avenue, in Saratoga Springs. The event will include a discussion with Brian Castner, moderated by Lawrence Edelson, about why he wrote his memoir, and how *The Long Walk* relates to the museum's Oral History Program, which collects interviews of New York State Veterans from all eras. The event will also feature readings from both Castner's memoir and excerpts from the upcoming world premiere opera, performed by Daniel Belcher and Heather Johnson, as well as a discussion with composer Jeremy Howard Beck and librettist Stephanie Fleischmann about how the opera was developed at American Lyric Theater in New York City.

Additional events supported by the grant from OPERA America leading up to the World Premiere will include:

A book club on April 24th at Northshire Books, led by librettist Stephanie Fleischmann, to explore Castner's memoir upon which the opera is based.

Of Arms and the Man I Sing, a free concert on Sunday July 12th at the New York State Military Museum featuring members of Opera Saratoga's Young Artist Program in a program of scenes from other operas that deal with issues of war and homecoming, from Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, to the 2012 Pulitzer Prize award winning *Silent Night* by Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell.

A *World War I Tribute Recital* by baritone John Brancy on July 16th that explores the thoughts, emotions and psyche of the great composers during that tremulous time. The program will include a performance of George Butterworth's (who died in combat during the Battle of the Somme in 1916) famously beautiful settings of poetry from A.E. Housman's *A Shropshire Lad*, as well as songs by Gerald Finzi, Claude Debussy, Carl Orff, and Charles Ives.

A writing seminar in July (dates to be announced), led by author and veteran Brian Castner, to provide other veterans and their families an outlet to give voice to their experiences.

A free open dress rehearsal of the world premiere production for veterans, current military and their families.

Pre-performance discussions, moderated by Opera Saratoga's Artistic and General Director Lawrence Edelson, in tandem with each of the four performances of *The Long Walk* on July 10th, 13th, 17th, and 25th.

Additional details about all of these events will be announced by Opera Saratoga in the early spring.

Tickets for *The Long Walk*, and all other events that comprise Opera Saratoga's 2015 Summer Festival, are on sale now. Please visit www.operasaratoga.org/tickets for more information.

ABOUT THE LONG WALK:

The Long Walk is a new opera by composer Jeremy Howard Beck and librettist Stephanie Fleischmann, which is based on Brian Castner's critically acclaimed book of the same name. The opera is a deeply personal exploration of a soldier's return from Iraq where he served as an officer in an Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit and his battle with what he calls "the Crazy" as he tries to reintegrate into his family life upon returning from the war. Opera Saratoga is honored to present the world premiere of *The Long Walk* in partnership with American Lyric Theater, who commissioned the opera in 2012. Internationally renowned theater and opera director David Schweizer makes his Opera Saratoga debut directing the production, with celebrated American conductor Steven Osgood on the podium. Grammy Award winning Baritone Daniel Belcher returns to Opera Saratoga to create the role of Brian, alongside mezzo-soprano Heather Johnson, who makes her company debut as his wife Jessie. The cast also includes the company debuts of sopranos Caroline Worra and Donita Volkwijn, tenors David Blacklock and Javier Abreu, and bass baritone Justin Hopkins. The design team for the production includes scenic designer Mimi Lien, costume designer Nancy Leary, and lighting designer Jeff Bruckerhoff. The production opens on July 10th, with additional performances on July 13th, 17th and 25th.

ABOUT OPERA SARATOGA:

Opera Saratoga, formerly known as Lake George Opera, began with a production of *Die Fledermaus* at the Diamond Point Theatre on July 5, 1962, playing to an audience of 230. The Company now calls Saratoga Springs home and performs for more than 25,000 people annually. Opera Saratoga serves the communities of Saratoga Springs, the Lower Adirondack and New York State Capital areas by providing access to world-class opera through the production of an annual Summer Festival, as well as year-round activities including extensive educational programs, mentorship of emerging operatic artists, and unique opportunities for the public to experience opera in both our home theater and non-traditional venues that leverage and embrace the unique cultural, historic, and natural resources of the area. To date, the Company has performed ninety different fully-staged works by fifty-two different composers, including thirty-three works by American composers and five world-premiere productions. Throughout its history, the Company's success has been shaped by visionary leaders, talented artists, and critically acclaimed productions. In 2014, the Board of Directors appointed Lawrence Edelson as the new Artistic and General Director. Edelson's leadership marks a new chapter in the company's history, plans for which include greatly expanded community partnerships throughout the year, diversification of the company's repertoire, and a reaffirmed commitment to both the presentation of American opera and the mentorship of emerging artists as core activities in the company's programs each season. The 2015 summer season marks the first festival under his leadership. For more information, visit www.operasaratoga.org.