



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

KATHLEEN M. JIMINO
County Executive

Peter K. Goebel
Director

Volume 11, Issue 3
May/June 2016

Rensselaer County
Unified Family Services
Veterans Service Agency
1600 Seventh Avenue
Troy, NY 12180
Phone: (518) 270-2760
FAX: (518) 270-2956
www.rensco.com

Van Transportation...

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

For more details please call 270-2760.



VETERANS CRISIS LINE

1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

****Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255****
TTY service 1-800-799-4889

Confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, for veterans and their loved ones.

Post -9/11 GI Bill

If you have at least 90 days of aggregate active duty service after Sept. 10, 2001, and are still on active duty, or if you are an honorably discharged Veteran or were discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days, you may be eligible for this VA-administered program. Whether you want to apply your GI Bill benefits to college classes or an on-the-job training program, the GI Bill Comparison Tool will help you make the most of them. You can also review the program pamphlet.

If you have eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and any other GI Bill program you must make an irrevocable election of the Post-9/11 GI Bill before you can receive any benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill has a few specific components that are unavailable in other GI Bill programs:

- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Transfer of Entitlement Option

Types of Training and Assistance

The following is approved under the Post-9/11 GI Bill:

- GI Bill Resident Rate Requirements
- Correspondence training
- Cooperative training
- Entrepreneurship training
- Flight training
- Independent and distance learning
- Institutions of higher learning undergraduate and graduate degrees
- Licensing and certification reimbursement
- Vocational/technical training, non-college degree programs
- National testing reimbursement
- On-the-job training
- Tuition Assistance top-up
- Tutorial assistance
- Vocational/technical training

Benefits and Eligibility

For approved programs, the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally payable for 15 years following your release from active duty. Institutions of higher learning participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program may make additional funds available for your education program without an additional charge to your GI Bill entitlement. The following payments may also be available:

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- Monthly housing allowance
- Annual books and supplies stipend
- One-time rural benefit payment

Some Service-members may also transfer unused GI Bill benefits to their dependents.

Other Factors to Consider:

- Full tuition and fees are paid directly to the school for all public school in-state students.
- For those attending private or foreign schools, tuition and fees are capped at the national maximum rate.
- If you're attending a private or a public institution of higher learning (either private or public) as a non resident, out-of-state student you may be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program and entitled to additional education-related costs not covered by VA. Not everyone is eligible for this assistance.

Dependents Education Assistance Program

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Type of Assistance

Benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Get the DEA pamphlet.

Available Benefits and Eligibility

You may receive up to 45 months of education benefits. Effective Oct. 1, 2013, some DEA beneficiaries may be eligible for up to 81 months of GI Bill benefits if they use the Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance program in conjunction with an entitlement from other VA education programs. View current payment rates. If you are eligible for both Fry Scholarship and DEA, you will be required to make an irrevocable election between the two programs when you apply. Dependents are not eligible to receive both DEA and Fry Scholarship based on the same event (like a Service-member dying in the line of duty) unless he or she is a child whose parent died prior to August 1, 2011. A child whose parent died before August 1, 2011, may be eligible for both benefits but he/she may only use one program at a time and combined benefits are capped at a total of 81 months of full-time training. In this situation, the two benefit programs cannot be used concurrently.

Eligibility

You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

- A Veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the armed forces.
- A Veteran who died from any cause while such permanent and total service-connected disability was in existence.
- A Service-member missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
- A Service-member forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- A Service-member who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability. This change is effective Dec. 23, 2006.

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Other Factors to Consider

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If you are a son or daughter and wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26. In certain instances, it is possible to begin before age 18 and to continue after age 26. Marriage is not a bar to this benefit. If you are in the armed forces, you may not receive this benefit while on active duty. To pursue training after military service, your discharge must not be under dishonorable conditions. VA can extend your period of eligibility by the number of months and days equal to the time spent on

active duty. This extension cannot generally go beyond your 31st birthday, there are some exceptions. Please note that a child over 18 years old using DEA will not be eligible to receive Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments from VA. Receiving DEA payments bars a child from receiving DIC payments. If you are a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds you eligible or from the date of death of the Veteran. If VA rated the Veteran permanently and totally disabled with an effective date of three years from discharge, a spouse will remain eligible for 20 years from the effective date of the rating. This change is effective Oct. 10, 2008, and no benefits may be paid for any training taken prior to that date. A spouse using DEA (of the Fry Scholarship) remains eligible to receive DIC payments from VA.

For surviving spouses of Service-members who died on active duty, benefits end 20 years from the date of death.

Apply

To apply, take these steps depending on your situation:

- Make sure that your selected program is approved for VA training. Take a look at our **GI Bill Comparison Tool** for more information. VA can inform you and the school or company about the requirements.
- To apply, obtain and complete VA Form 22-5490, Dependents Application for VA Education Benefits. Send it to the VA regional office with jurisdiction over the state where you will advance your education and training. If you are a son or daughter, under legal age, a parent or guardian must sign the application. If you are eligible for both DEA and Fry, you will be required to make an irrevocable election *unless* you are a child of a Service-member who died in the line-of-duty prior to August 1, 2011.
- If you have started your educational program, take your application to your school or employer. Ask them to complete VA Form 22-1999, Enrollment Certification, and send both forms to VA.
(Note: Schools must contact their VA representative to receive this form.)

Additional Assistance

Those eligible for DEA benefits may also be eligible for this additional assistance:

-**Special Restorative Training** VA may prescribe special restorative training where needed to overcome or lessen the effects of a physical or mental disability for the purpose of enabling an eligible person to pursue a program of education, special vocational program, or other appropriate goal. Medical care and treatment or psychiatric treatments are not included.

-**Special Vocational Training** VA may also approve these benefits for an eligible person who is not in need of special restorative training, but who requires such a program because of a mental or physical disability.

-**Section 301 of Public Law 109-461** adds a new category to the definition of eligible person for DEA benefits. The new category covers the spouse or child of a person who VA determined has a service-connected permanent and total disability; and is at the time of VAs determination is a member of the armed forces who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient medical care, services, or treatment; and is likely to be discharged or released from service for this service-connected disability. Persons eligible under this new provision may

A Message from Rensselaer County Executive Kathleen M. Jimino

As Memorial Day approaches and we make preparations to honor those who have fallen while fighting for the freedoms we hold so dear I want to wish all those who have served or are currently serving our nation a very special thank you. It is your courage and sacrifices that have ensured the freedoms and way of life we hold so dear.

Again this year I will have the distinct honor of participating in a number of parades and community events marking this solemn day and bestowing the gratitude of a thankful nation. And for that honor I am truly thankful.

I would also like to offer my sincere gratitude to all of the groups and individuals who organize and coordinate the various functions and parades. It is those efforts that grant us another opportunity to thank our soldiers and to express our appreciation to the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Jimino

MARCHERS WANTED



June 12, 2016, Annual Troy Flag Day Parade.
Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency
is looking for veterans to march with us in the parade.
If you are interested, please call our office for details
at (518) 270-2760.

Upcoming Events:



Call us by the 15th of the month and we will list your event .

- May 21st... Sergeant Walter A. Adams American Legion Post #1021 Chicken BBQ, call 674-2309 day of BBQ
- May 26th... Melrose, Schaghticoke & Valley Falls Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 6:30 pm in Valley Falls
- May 28th... East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10 am
- May 29th... Rensselaer Memorial Day Parade, ceremony @ 1pm - step off @ 2 pm
- May 30th... MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED
- May 30th... Averill Park Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 10am
- May 30th... Hoosick Falls Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am
- May 30th... Castleton Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am
- May 30th... 20th Annual Lansingburgh Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11 am rain or shine
- May 30th... Berlin Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11am
- May 30th... Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade @ 11am
- May 30th... North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 1:30 pm
- May 30th... Nassau Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 2pm
- June 12th... Troy Flag Day Parade, step-off @ 1pm
- June 13th... Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, County Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:

George E. Dodge, USCG, WWII