



**COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY**

Jerry Donnellan, Director (845) 638-5244 jerry@rockvets.com
www.rockvets.com August 2012 Volume 3 Issue 6

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Local Chapter 120 Re-Commissioned

On June 23, 2012, the Charles G. Muller Chapter 120, Military Order of the Purple Heart was re-commissioned. As a former Vietnam veteran (25th Inf. Div. 1967-68) Commander Howard Goldin states, "We are that rare breed of soldier/veteran who can say we have been there, seen it, have done it." The Chapter will have representation on the Rockland County Coordinating Council and is reaching out to all Purple Heart recipients for their "voice of experience and wisdom." They welcome Purple Heart recipients from all wars to join them.



The first meeting of the Chapter will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 15th, 2012 at the Kearsing-Edwards American Legion Post 1600, 20 Station Road, Pomona, NY 10970. The new Board of Directors consists of Howard Goldin, Commander; John Sayers, Adjutant; Bob Schreiner, Treasurer; and John T. Becker, Sgt.-At-Arms.

For further information, contact Howard Goldin via e-mail at goldingoose@optonline.net, or by telephone – 845-371-7605 or cell phone – 914-629-8067.

NAM KNIGHTS OF AMERICA M/C

Hudson Valley Chapter

The Nam Knights are having their annual picnic and fundraiser on September 9th, 2012. It will be held at the German Masonic Fairgrounds, 89 Western Highway in Tappan, NY 10983 and everyone is welcome. Some of the proceeds this year will benefit the very needy Hi-Tor Animal Care Center in Pomona, New York. So, it's \$25.00 for a day of good food, music, family fun, and a good cause, as well as supporting a great group of people who do so much for our community. A cup of beer is \$5.00 with endless refills so hold on to your cup! The kids will especially enjoy the face-painting and bouncy houses. Tickets are available at the gate on the day of the picnic. For further information, call Charlie at 845-359-4005.



101ST SIGNAL CORPS FROM ORANGEBURG, NY

Deploying for Afghanistan

The Nam Knights – Hudson Valley Chapter, will be escorting the convoy for the 101st Signal Corps from their base in Orangeburg, New York to Stewart Airport in Newburgh, NY. The troops leave on Sunday morning, August 19th, 2012. They will be stateside for a few weeks and then deployed to Afghanistan. We wish them all a safe return.

POW-MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY

Wednesday, September 22nd, 2012



This year, the POW-MIA Remembrance Day will be held at the Leo Laders American Legion Post 130, 130 American Legion Way, Thiells, NY 10984. The ceremony starts promptly at 5:00 p.m. so please arrive by 4:30 p.m. The public is invited and encouraged to attend this annual ceremony for our troops who served our nation as prisoners-of-war, as well as the 81,864 who remain unaccounted for. We still have Americans missing from the war in Vietnam (1,713), the Cold War (125), Korean War (8,025) and World War II (74,074).

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools, and veterans' facilities. This is our local tribute so please try to be there. For further information, call Charlie at 845-359-4005 or the Leo Laders Post 130 at 845-429-2112.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOPE FOR HEROES FOUNDATION

Fly-Fishing Trip - Roscoe, New York

On the weekend of September 5th, 6th, and 7th, 2012, Hopes for Heroes Foundation will hold a fly-fishing trip for some disabled soldiers at the Winton Club in Roscoe, New York. If you or someone you know is interested in this event, please contact Jim Drohan at 914-557-0476 or via e-mail: fire98@aol.com. You can view the Hope for Heroes Foundation website at: www.heroeshope.org.

BARBEQUE FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

September 8, 2012

Kearsing-Edwards American Legion Post - On Saturday, September 8, 2012, the Marine Corps League and American Legion Kearsing-Edwards Post 1600 in Pomona are hosting a free barbeque for veterans and their families. The members of the American Legion and Marine Corps League are hoping to meet new veterans in the area and are also asking that business owners or employers who might have jobs to offer veterans come to the cook-out as well. Hopefully some veterans can get a few job leads if needed. The event is free for veterans who aren't already members of the American Legion or Marine Corps League – just bring along your DD214. Post 1600 is located at 20 Station Road in Pomona, NY and the barbeque will run from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Membership in the Marine Corps League and American Legion pays \$10.00 each. Come out and enjoy the company of other veterans and some great food. For further information or to sign up for the cook-out, contact Gene Erickson at 845-356-7429 or e-mail Jim O'Neill, Commandant of the Marine Corps League, at Commandant@RocklandUSMC.com.

SHRINER'S CIRCUS DAY

11:00 a.m. on
September 21st, 2012.

The Shriner's Club is inviting all veterans to the Shriners Circus day at the German Masonic Park on Western Highway in Tappan, NY. While seating is limited, the tent will hold 1000 people and no one will be turned away. For further information or to sign up for the circus, give Bob Miller a call at 845-268-5613 or Ralph Edwards at 845-356-6184 or e-mail: ralph@CTD4AC.com. There are other shows going on that weekend, but the 11:00 a.m. performance on Friday, September 21st, 2012, is free for all veterans.
www.KlownKlub.org.



2013 VETERAN COLA PASSES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

It's up to the Senate now

The House of Representatives passed the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012 (H.R. 4114). Although this is seen by many as a formality, passing the COLA is often pushed to the end of the year. According to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs press release, taking care of this now ensures that Vets will be given the benefits they were promised without any last minute "political tug-of-war." If signed into law, H.R. 4114 would increase the annual cost-of-living rate for veterans, which goes into effect on December 1, 2012. It is estimated that this year's COLA will be approximately 1.9 percent. The legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

If your organization has any upcoming events to benefit veterans and our military community, we'll be happy to add the item to our newsletter. Our contact list is reaching well over 400 veterans, military troops, their families, and others who support our service members and veterans. There are no fees for this type of announcement - just get the information to us as soon as possible so we can add it to the newsletter in ample time for your event.

And don't forget to call in your event to the RockVets radio show on the first Friday of each month....WRRCR 1300 AM 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – 845-362-0013,

ROCKVETS NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

A new feature – by request

We've had a number of requests from people with businesses or organizations who are interested in placing an ad in our monthly newsletter. We appreciate the confidence and positive responses to the newsletter so far and hope you continue to find items of interest and helpful links. If there are any particular topics you'd like to see us highlight, please let us know. If you would like information about placing an ad, please send an e-mail to jerry@rockvets.com or click on the rate schedule link to view our ad sizes and fees: **[Advertising Rate Schedule](#)**

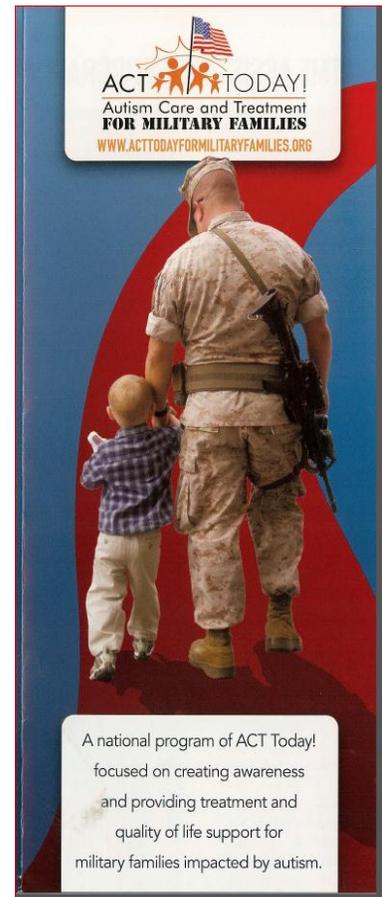
AUTISM CARE AND TREATMENT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

- 1 in 88 military children has a diagnosis on the autism spectrum.
- Autism is treatable, and with treatment, children can make significant gains.
- The mobile military family faces a complex maze of services at each new duty station. The emotional and financial strains on the military family are tremendous.
- Autism treatments are effective, but expensive. Coverage of ABA therapy is limited. ACT Today! For Military Families will bridge the gap and help defray out-of-pocket treatment costs.
- Military families shoulder significant responsibilities today. Military families with autism face extraordinary circumstances. With your help and support, we can make a difference in the life of a military child today and bring hope for a better tomorrow!

ACT Today! For Military Families is the organization that assists active military and veterans whose children are affected by autism. They give Grants four times a year for up to \$5,000. For further information, please contact Pat O'Brien, First Vice President, Nassau County American Legion Auxiliary - patobrien17@msn.com or view the website for ACT! TODAY at: www.acttodayformilitaryfamilies.org.

MILITARY ONE-SOURCE

This free service, provided by the Department of Defense to service members and their families, offers help for a broad range of concerns including money management, spouse employment and education, parenting and child care, relocation, deployment, reunion, and the particular concerns of families with special-needs members.



To access advice and help by individual service branch:

ARMY – 800-464-8107

MARINES – 800-869-0278

NAVY – 800-540-4123

AIR FORCE – 800-707-5784

JOHN STEINBECK – NAM IN JANUARY 1967

Only a handful of people have won both the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes in literature. One of them was iconic American novelist John Steinbeck. His incredible body of work stretched from *Tortilla Flat* to *Of Mice and Men*, from *Grapes of Wrath* to *Cannery Row* and *East of Eden*. He had a gift for the language that few, before or since have possessed. Not widely known is the fact that in 1966-67, a year before his death, he went to Vietnam at the request of his friend Harry F. Guggenheim, publisher of *Newsday* to do a series of reports on the war. The reports took the form of letters to his dear friend, Alicia Patterson, *Newsday's* first editor and publisher and Guggenheim's wife. Those letters have been published in a book by Thomas E. Barden, Vietnam veteran and Professor of English at the University of Toledo. The book is entitled, *Steinbeck on Vietnam: Dispatches From The War*.

The following passages are relevant to the experience many of us had in 'Nam. Steinbeck's ability to weave a vision is just magical. On January 7th, 1967, Steinbeck was in Pleiku, flying with Shamrock Flight, D Troop, 10th Cavalry.

John Steinbeck's comments begin here:
"...We are to move to the Huey of Major James Patrick Thomas, of whom it is said that he has changed the classic sophist's

question to how many choppers could Thomas sit on the point of a pin.

Alicia, I wish I could tell you about these pilots. They make me sick with envy. They ride their vehicles the way a man controls a fine, well-trained quarter horse. They weave along stream beds, rise like swallows to clear trees, they turn and twist and dip like swifts in the evening. I watch their hands and feet on the controls, the delicacy of the coordination reminds me of the sure and seeming slow hands of (Pablo) Casals on the cello. They are truly musicians' hands and they play their controls like music, and they dance them like ballerinas, and they make me jealous because I want so much to do it. Remember your child night dream of perfect flight, free and wonderful? It's like that, and sadly I know I never can. My hands are too old and forgetful to take orders from the Command Center, which speaks of updrafts and side winds, of drift and shift, or ground fire indicated by a tiny puff or flash, or a hit and all these commands must be obeyed by the musicians' hands instantly and automatically. I must take my longing out in admiration and the joy of seeing it. Sorry about that leak of ecstasy, Alicia, but I had to get it out or burst."

Steinbeck did have a way with words, did he not?

HONOR AND REMEMBER FLAG

A national campaign of honor and remembrance



After the death of his eldest son Tony in Iraq, Gold Star father George Lutz recognized the need to educate the nation on the precious cost of freedom. His mission became raising awareness about the sacrifice made by military men and women who died for their country, through the creation

and establishment of a distinct and tangible symbol. The Honor and Remember Flag was unveiled nationally on Memorial Day 2008 to perpetually recognize the sacrifice of our fallen military heroes and their families. The flag is now being endorsed by veteran and service organizations and adopted by cities and states. The Honor and Remember flag is being flown by patriotic Americans across our nation and is fast becoming a nationally accepted symbol of remembrance. For further information, please check out their website at: www.honorandremember.org.

NEW CITY LIBRARY DOCUMENTARY

America in World War II – Coming in November

To commemorate Veterans Day, the New City Library will present a special documentary program about America in World War II, on Sunday, November 18 at 2:00 PM. Viewing of the documentary is open to the public. Honoring our veterans and the civilians who made victory possible, the documentary shows America's homefront, including the vital role of women as Rosie The Riveter. Also, Bob Hope and Hollywood are seen on the battlefronts, supporting our troops. The program will be introduced by producer, Harvey Chertok, and will include a Q&A session following the documentary.



YOGA FOR VETERANS



Vince Quiros will be teaching a series of 7 donation-only yoga classes, in support of Yoga Across America (YAA.) YAA provides free yoga for veterans, wounded warriors and soldiers, whose lives have been impacted by their selfless service. Yoga can provide a haven of comfort and hope for those in need. Beginners welcome. All proceeds go to Yoga Across America. The classes will be held at the Birchwood Center at 85 S. Broadway, Nyack, NY - Tuesdays, 7:30 -8:45 pm through September 4. For further information see YAA's website: <http://www.yogaintheusa.org> or call Vince Quiros at 845-300-9579. You can also reach Vince via e-mail at: vinyoga@optonline.net.

HOME DEPOT

Veteran Discount Explained

The following information explains Home Depot's discount program for military and veterans. The information comes from Tiffany Lewis, Resolution Expeditor for The Home Depot. For further information or to clarify your use of the Home Depot discount, you can reach Tiffany Lewis by telephone at: 800-654-0688 ext. 76036 or via e-mail: TIFFANY_LEWIS@homedepot.com

Here are some of the details that Tiffany provided: When asked, we offer an everyday 10 percent discount (up to \$500 maximum) ONLY to customers who are active, National Guard, Coast Guard and reserve, retired or disabled veterans and their family members with a valid military ID. We offer a 10 percent discount in recognition of Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Veterans' Day at ALL U.S. Home Depot stores to active, National Guard, Coast Guard and reserve, retired or disabled veterans, AND honorably discharged veterans. On these four major holidays, all veterans and their dependents will only need to show their ID to receive the military discount. Note: "Retired" means they had over 20 years of Service prior to retiring from the Military. This definition comes from the Department of Defense. There are also certain types of accepted Military ID's so you might want to verify with Tiffany Lewis if you have any questions. Tiffany.Lewis@homedepot.com phone: 800-654-0688 ext. 76036.

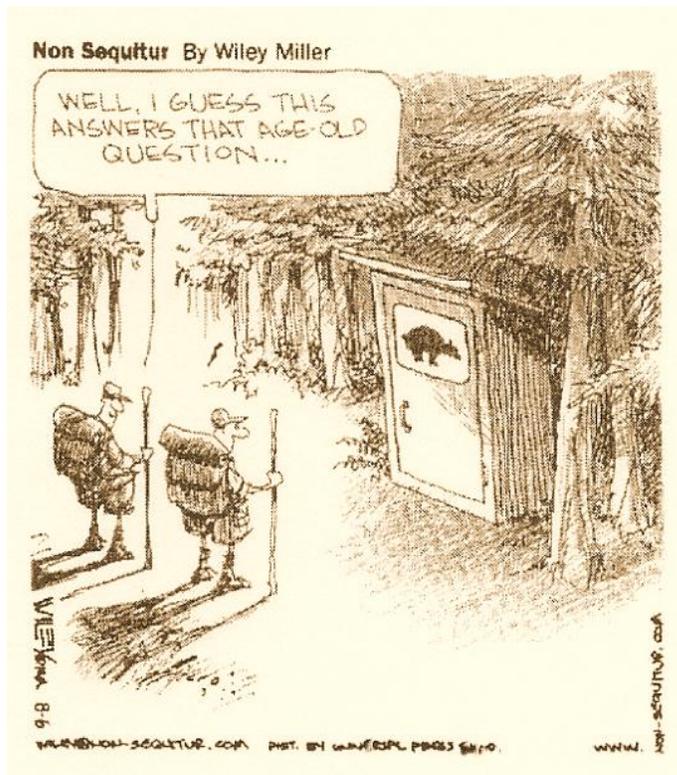
SENIOR DISCOUNTS FOR 2012

Explore this link to see a list of discounts available for Seniors but be aware that some of the discounts might have certain restrictions. It would be a good idea to contact the company offering the discount before-hand.

Click on this link: [Senior Discounts 2012](#).

F.A.V.O.R. PROGRAM

Also check out our website for a list of local vendors offering discounts to veterans through the FAVOR program (www.rockvets.com.) For further information on the FAVOR program, contact County Clerk's office at 845.638.5070 or their website: www.rocklandcountyclerk.com.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ROCKLAND COUNTY POLICE OFFICER EXAM

November 17, 2012

The Police Officer exam is scheduled for November 17, 2012. A tutorial to familiarize you with the exam will be available before the exam date. The last filing date for the exam is September 26, 2012 and there is a \$30.00 application fee. For further information about the tutorial or Police Officer exam applications, please contact Joan Silvestri at the R.C. Department of Personnel, 18 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY. She can also be reached at: 845.638.5200 or by e-mail: rcpersonnel@co.rockland.ny.us. You can explore their website for any Rockland County job opportunities - www.rocklandgov.com/departments/personnel.

FBI APPLICATIONS

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is current taking applications for Special Agents. Candidates with technology, language skills, or accounting backgrounds are being sought. For information on requirements for application, view their website at: www.fbijobs.gov.

A & T HEALTHCARE, NEW CITY, NY

Home Health Aide Training Program

A&T Healthcare offers the New York State Department of Health Home Healthcare Aide training program at its New City Office. This is a thirteen day course and includes textbook and skills for becoming a Home Health Aide. There is no experience required and it is free of charge. Candidates must demonstrate a desire to work in the Healthcare field and must successfully complete and pass the course. A competency evaluation is available for Veterans who were trained in the US Military as medical technicians or medics. For additional information and questions please contact Mr. Peter Fella, RN at A&T Healthcare – (845)638-4342 or e-mail: peterfella@at-healthcare.com.

GOVERNOR CUOMO LEGISLATION – DVA WEBSITE RESOURCE

New Legislation signed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently, will continue New York State's efforts to assist returning service men and women in finding employment. The new law requires the establishment of an employment portal on the Division of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) website that will include links to appropriate federal and state governmental programs that assist veterans in obtaining employment. It will provide information regarding resources that are available to assist veterans in finding jobs, including governmental programs on the federal and state level and links to resources available through the federal and state labor departments. Explore the website at: www.veterans.ny.gov.

CONTACT NATALIE HERNANDEZ – OUR LOCAL VET REP

The information below is from our Veterans Representative at the Department of Labor – Natalie Hernandez. You can reach Natalie by e-mail: Natalie.Hernandez@Labor.NY.Gov. You can also follow her on Twitter @NatDOLVetRep or Linked-In at: Natalie Hernandez LVER. If you'd like to sign up for Natalie's monthly veterans' newsletter, just get in touch with her. She is a vet herself and is more than willing to help you.

AUGUST 21ST, VIRTUAL JOB FAIR

There is an online Virtual Job Fair set for August 21st between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. You can check out this link to register for the virtual job fair: <http://cf.milicruit.com>.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The Department of Public service has a full time/permanent position available for a Special Assistant. The job is located in Goshen, New York. Reference job vacancy ID #: 3640. The salary range for this position is \$109,213 annually. Contact Natalie Hernandez for further information.

AUGUST 22ND, 2012 – JOB RECRUITMENT IN SPRING VALLEY, NY

Onsite Job Recruitment: C&S Wholesale Grocers

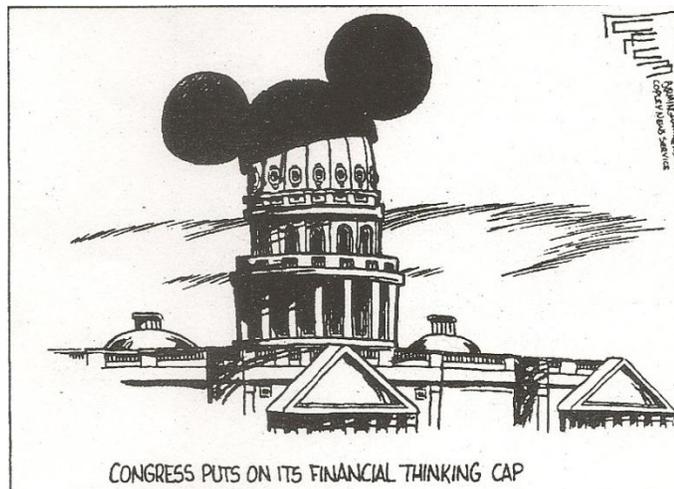
C&S Wholesale grocers is the leading supply chain company in the food industry today, and the largest wholesale grocery supply company in the U.S. They supply independent supermarkets, chain stores and institutions different products. They have 50 high tech facilities, delivering everything from seafood to soup to soap.

Recruiters will be at Tomorrows

Workplace August 22nd from 10am to 2pm. You will be provided information about open positions, assistance with the application and the opportunities for on the spot interviews. Open positions: Auditors, Pickers, forklift drivers, customer service reps. You can fill out the online application prior to this event at www.cswg.com: Go to jobs and look for positions at the Chester, New York Location.

**Additional questions or info
please contact the Business
Service rep Kosi at**

**845-356-5740 Or email
Kosi@tomorrowsworkplace.org**



ABOUT ROCKVETS - A PROJECT OF NY VETS ©

We would like to keep you up-to-date on events and matters of interest to veterans and will be sending these newsletters regularly. If at any time you no longer wish to receive them, please reply to our e-mail address and write "remove" on the subject line. We will immediately remove your e-mail address from our newsletter mailing list. If you find any of this information newsworthy, feel free to pass it along.



We are here to help you and all who have worn the uniform of our nation. Thank you.

ROCKVETS - NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

A new feature – by request

We've had a number of requests from people with businesses or organizations who are interested in placing an ad in our monthly newsletter. We appreciate the confidence and positive responses to the newsletter so far and hope you continue to find items of interest and helpful links. If there are any particular topics you'd like to see us highlight, please let us know. If you would like information about placing an ad, please send an e-mail to jerry@rockvets.com or click on the rate schedule link to view our ad sizes and fees: [Advertising Rate Schedule 2012 PDF.pdf](#)

ROCKVETS - ON THE INTERNET AND AIRWAVES

You can find information, useful links, and view our webpage at www.rockvets.com. Previous copies of our newsletters are also available on our website at: www.rockvets.com/newsletters. You can interact with us on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/rockvets or e-mail: jerry@rockvets.com.

On the first Friday of each month, between 10 and 11 a.m., Rock Vets has a live call-in talk show on Rockland County's local radio station – WRRCR 1300 AM. You can call-in and ask questions, but it is also a good opportunity to promote any upcoming events for your organization that would be of interest to the veteran/military community. The call-in number is 845.362.0013. The show is also live on www.wrccr.com. So please listen in, and call if you have questions or information to share.

R.C. Veterans Service Agency – if you plan to come to the office, please call to make an appointment so we can give you the time you need - 845.638.5244.



**Jerry Donnellan, Director - Veterans Service Agency of Rockland
20 Squadron Blvd., Suite 480, New City, NY 10956**