



COUNTY OF ROCKLAND VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

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AGENT ORANGE

Presumptive AO Diseases

The VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for disability compensation or other survivors' benefits for these diseases. Here is the current list.

AL Amyloidosis

A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs

Chronic B-cell Leukemias

A type of cancer which affects white blood cells

Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)

A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acneform disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.



Diabetes Mellitus Type 2

A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin

Hodgkin's Disease

A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia

Ischemic Heart Disease

A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain

Multiple Myeloma

A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue

Parkinson's Disease

A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement

VIETNAM VETS

More than four decades have passed since most of our 'Nam vets served in that country, but the war is still claiming lives. This time the enemy comes in the form of debilitating illnesses from long-lasting effects of Agent Orange exposure. There is help, and benefits are available if you are dealing with any of these illness. For further information, go to www.va.gov or contact Jerry at the Veterans' Service Agency in New City, NY (845) 638-5244.

Agent Orange Presumptive Diseases continued here...

Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy

A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides and resolve within two years after the date it began.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating

regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Prostate Cancer

Cancer of the prostate - a common cancer among men.

Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)

Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus

Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)

A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as

muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues

Children with Birth Defects: VA presumes certain birth defects in children of Vietnam and Korea Veterans associated with Veterans' qualifying military service.

Veterans with ALS: VA presumes **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)** diagnosed in **all** Veterans who had 90 days or more continuous active military service is related to their service, although ALS is not related to Agent Orange exposure.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND EPILEPSY

Veterans Administration Connects the Dots



Epilepsy is a serious disorder marked by seizures and is shown to commonly occur after traumatic brain injury. According to VA-sponsored research, post traumatic epilepsy can generally occur about five years after penetrating traumatic brain injury. We can, therefore, expect a rise in epilepsy cases from veterans suffering from TBI. If you aren't already registered with the Veterans' Service Agency, we strongly suggest you do so. Jerry – 845-638-5244 or e-mail: jerry@rockvets.com.

GULF WAR VETERANS

Task Force Report – March 2012

This newly released report refers to veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War from August 2nd, 1990 to June 1991 – specifically Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. 529,034 service members served in **Operation Desert Shield** and of this number, 152,126 have filed disability compensation claims which were subsequently service-connected. Of the 581,683 veterans who served in **Operation Desert Storm**, 165,596 filed disability compensation claims that were subsequently service-connected.

Here is the link is for the recently released full Task Force Report:
http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/2011_GWVI-TF_Report.pdf



24/7 SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

CRISIS HOTLINE #: 1-800-273-8255

Most of you are probably aware that former Marine Cpl. Megan Leavey, will finally be reunited with Sgt. Rex. Here is an e-mail letter recently sent by Senator Charles E. Schumer...



From Senator Charles Schumer – March 2012

We did it! We just got word from the United States Air Force and Marines Corps that Sergeant Rex is coming home to his best friend, Marine Corporal Megan Leavey. This wouldn't have happened without you and the over 20,000 Americans who signed our petition, tweeted, posted the cause to their Facebook pages and brought overall awareness to our effort to reunite these two American heroes. I can't thank you enough for joining the effort.

Corporal Megan Leavey and her military working dog, Sgt. Rex, served two tours of duty together in Iraq in some of the most dangerous conditions in the world. On a daily basis they searched for and identified roadside bombs and other improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that were targeting our soldiers in Iraq. While millions of dog lovers across the country develop deep bonds with their 'best friends,' the bond forged between Corporal Leavey and Sgt. Rex is one that few of us will ever know. That is why it was so important to me that they be reunited, particularly now that Sgt. Rex is ten years old and can no longer serve.

I can think of no better ending to a story that inspired a nation than the news that Sgt. Rex will be coming home to his best friend, Corporal Leavey.

We should extend our thanks to the United States Air Force and Marine Corps for moving so quickly to ensure that Sgt. Rex gets to live the rest of his life in a home with someone who cares for him as much as Corporal Leavey.

While the cause of reuniting Corporal Leavey and Sgt. Rex has inspired a country, there are hundreds of military working dogs, like Rex that also will one day need to come back to caring homes. This is why I am a supporter of Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act (S. 2134) which seeks to streamline the adoption of the military working dogs after they retire and improve veterinary care for them at no expense to taxpayers.

Thank you again for all your support in this effort. Now it's time for Megan and Sgt. Rex to adjust to their new life together in New York. Again, thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

VETERANS' LEGISLATION

We can make a difference but our voices need to be heard

As in the case of reuniting Cpl. Megan Leavey and Sgt. Rex, we know the power of working with our elected representatives to accomplish good things for veterans. It's important that we stay involved in the process and that our voices be heard. You can follow legislation put forth on behalf of veterans at this link:

[..\RAO Bulletin on Veteran Legislation 120312 \(1\).pdf](#)

Source: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/LegislativeData.php?n=Browse> 12 Mar 2012 ++]

We can also let our representatives know how we feel about legislative items. If they have no idea what we care about, they will be inclined to vote for suggestions from those they do hear from. It's very easy to send e-mails to your elected Federal representatives at www.senate.com or www.house.com.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

For military students and veterans

Long Island University offers partial scholarships to military students and veterans that, when combined with the benefits received through the Post-9/11 GTI Bill, can cover up to 100% of tuition and fees. They offer flexible afternoon, evening and weekend course schedules, convenient campuses in Rockland, Westchester, and at the West Point Education Center, veteran services support and academic advising. They also offer Graduate Programs. For further information for Rockland and West Point call (845) 450-5403 or e-mail:

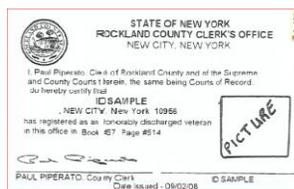
Rockland@liu.edu. For Westchester call (914) 831-2700 or e-mail to: Westchester@liu.edu. Jeffrey McDowell, Executive Director of Operations, LIU Hudson, 70 Route 340, Orangeburg, NY 10962.

"RETURN THE F.A.V.O.R." PROGRAM

Find and Assist Vets of Record

This is a program where businesses offer discounts to veterans. You can find a list of participating businesses on our website (www.rockvets.com) or on the website for the Rockland County Clerk's office www.rocklandcountyclerk.com.

It is necessary to obtain a veterans' ID card from the County Clerk's Office. Call them at (845) 638-5076 for further information.



If you have a business and would like to enroll in the "Return The Favor" program, you can find the Merchant Application Form on the County Clerk's website. For further information, please call their office at (845) 638-5076.

What did the fish say when he bumped into the concrete wall?



DAM!!!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

VERIZON HIRING VETERANS

Recruit Military interviewing veterans

Recruit Military, a recruiting company founded by and for veterans and military service members, is helping one of their top clients, Verizon, connect with transitioning military service members who are interested in rewarding careers. In speaking of military members and veterans they've interviewed, representatives of the company have said, "With their confidence, initiative and integrity, Verizon is certain veterans will excel in an environment that delivers endless opportunities." For further information, view their website at www.recruitmilitary.com.

POLICE OFFICER EXAM IN NOVEMBER

Rockland County, NY Police Officer exam and tutorial

The Police Officer examination is scheduled for November 17, 2012.

Official announcements will be forthcoming in June of 2012.

There will also be a tutorial offered sometime before then.

We will keep you posted.

JOB FAIR FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY

Recruit Military hosting job fair in New York City

Recruit Military holds job fairs all over the country and will be in our area this month. The Job Fair will be in midtown Manhattan at the New Yorker Hotel, 481 – Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10001 on Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can find further information on their website at www.recruitmilitary.com

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Local Office in Spring Valley, New York

Services for veterans include The NYS Job Bank: This is a free nationwide internet service for employers and job seekers. Employers post their job openings and can search for qualified candidates to fill them. Veteran job seekers can enter resumes and search for job opportunities that meet their career goals. The internet address is: www.jobcentral.org/ny. For further information on this and other services available for veterans, call 1-888-469-7369 and ask for the Veterans Program.



ABOUT ROCKVETS

A project of NY Vets



[WWW.ROCKVETS.COM](http://www.rockvets.com)

We would like to keep you up-to-date on events and matters of interest to veterans, military service members, and their families, so we 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" in 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 to your friends who have an interest in veterans, military service members, and their families. If your friends would like to be added to our mailing list, they can send us their e-mail address (e-mail – jerry@rockvets.com) or call the office (845-638-5244).

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

ROCKVETS ON THE INTERNET AND AIRWAVES

We are on the web! You can find information, useful links, and view our webpage at www.rockvets.com. You can interact with us on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/rockvets. E-mail: jerry@rockvets.com

We are also on the radio! 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 – WRCR 1300 AM. The calls and discussion centers around veterans, military service members, and their families. 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 show is also live on www.wrcr.com. So please listen in, and call if you have questions or information to share.

Here are the details: WRCR's call-in phone number is (845) 362-0013. The next show is Friday, April 6th, 2012 from 10 – 11 a.m. on radio 1300 AM. Please pass along this information to anyone you think may be interested.

R.C. Veterans Service Agency – if you plan to come to the office, please call in advance to make an appointment so we can be available to see you.

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