



**COUNTY OF ROCKLAND
VETERANS SERVICE
AGENCY NEWSLETTER**

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VETERANS DAY AND VETERAN OF THE YEAR CEREMONY

On Sunday, November 10th at noon, the Rockland County Coordinating Council will hold their annual Veterans Day Ceremony outside the old Rockland County Court House on Main Street in New City. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. During the ceremony, Rockland County's Veteran of the Year will be honored. To find out about local Veterans Day events, view these Town websites:

Town of Clarkstown: www.town.clarkstown.ny.us

Town of Haverstraw: www.townofhaverstraw.org

Town of Orangetown: www.orangetown.com

Town of Ramapo: www.ramapo.org

Town of Stony Point: www.townofstonypoint.org

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

On Sunday, November 10th, the United States Marine Corps will celebrate its 238th birthday. For some background history on the United States Marine Corps, visit this website:

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/birth-of-the-us-marine-corps>

The Rockland County Marine Corps League will hold their annual Marine Corps Luncheon starting at 11:30 .m. on Friday, November 8th at the Platzl Brau Haus, 127 Call Hollow Road in Pomona, New York. All Marine Corps veterans or Navy personnel who served with the Marine Corps, are welcome.

On Sunday, November 3rd, the Marine Corps Birthday will be celebrated at the Kearsing-Edwards American Legion Post 1600, Station Road in Pomona, New York. For further information regarding these events, contact Jim O'Neill at joneill78@optimum.net

**NYS VOTING BALLOT –
AMENDMENT # 2 CAN
BENEFIT DISABLED VETS**

Tuesday, November 5th is Election Day. We urge you to cast your vote freely for your choice of candidates and ensure your voice is heard.

Please note Amendment #2 since it is of particular importance to veterans. If passed, this will benefit disabled veterans. Here is an abstract of Amendment #2:

The purpose of the proposed amendment to section 6 of article 5 of the Constitution is to grant additional civil service credit to veterans who are certified as disabled after they have been appointed or promoted to a civil service position.

To view details of the proposed amendment, please click here: <http://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/Elections/2013/Proposals/ProposalTwoFinal.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR VETERANS IN ROCKLAND

❖ AN EVENING OF HEALING FOR VETERANS

November 18th, 2013, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., healing practitioners are offering one-on-one energetic healing sessions for Veterans – dealing with PTSD, trauma, pain, illness, and disease. There is no fee for veterans. The evening will be held at the Union Arts Center, 2 Union Avenue in Sparkill, NY 10976. For further information or to register, call Christine at 845-359-0258 or via e-mail: http://accessyourexcellence@gmail.com. For information about the Union Arts Center, view their website at: <http://www.uacny.com/venue/union-arts-center/>

❖ “ SALUTE TO OUR TROOPS” CONCERT

Sunday, November 24th, 2013 The Rockland Orange District Council, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. and the Town of Ramapo are presenting “A Salute To Our Troops” Concert – featuring The West Point Band. The program will be held at the Suffern High School Auditorium, 49 Viola Road, Suffern, New York 10901 and begins at 1:30 p.m. - doors open at 1:00 p.m. Admission is free and the public is invited.

❖ ANNUAL UNITED HOSPICE VETERANS RECOGNITION EVENT

Thursday, December 5th, 2013, United Hospice of Rockland will host their annual Veterans Recognition Event from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the Salvation Army Conference Center, 40 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994. A Special Screening of Award Winning Documentary [Honor Flight](#) will be shown. This is the heartwarming story of World War II Veterans and their long overdue recognition. Refreshments will be served. To request an invitation to this event or for further details, contact Mimi Hoffman at 845.634.4974 or via e-mail: mhoffman@hospiceofrockland.org

❖ MOSCARELLA AMERICAN LEGION POST 199 HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 14th, 2013: Moscarella American Legion Post 199 is having their Annual Holiday Party. It will be held at Krucker’s Restaurant and Grove, 81 Call Hollow Road, Pomona, New York 10970 – 845.354.9832. The gathering will run from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and the fee is \$50.00 per person in advance, \$55.00 per person at the door. For further information, please call Commander, Maureen Morgan at 845.729.5471, Past Commander, Peter Medina at 845.641-6899, or Past Commander, Robert Young at 910.372.2722. Please make reservations by December 1st and entrée selection – choice of Prime Rib of Beef, Filet of Salmon, or Chicken Marsala. Hors D’oeuvres, full dinner and dessert will be served, as well as beer, wine and soda all evening. A cash bar is also available.

WRCR RADIO SHOW – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST – 10:00 A.M.

Call in to RockVets live radio show on Friday, November 1st just after the 10:00 a.m. newsbreak. That’s AM radio station 1300. This is a good opportunity to tell us about any upcoming events for Veterans or pass along information of interest to veterans. The call-in phone number is 845-362-0013. You can also listen live to the program on www.wrcr.com. Thanks to the Rockland County Marine Corps League for sponsoring this month’s RockVets radio show.

VETERANS DAY SERVICES IN NEW YORK CITY

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION – IAVA WILL BE AT THE NEW YORK CITY VETERANS DAY PARADE ON NOVEMBER 11TH.

OIF/OEF/OND vets are invited to march with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association in the New York City Veterans Day parade; spouses and family members of veterans will march behind the vets. Civilians and supporters will gather together on the sidelines to cheer the marchers. Flatiron Building – 175 Fifth Avenue, New York City, NY 10010. For further information, see their website: www.iava.org.

SCAMS – DON'T GIVE TO THESE GROUPS

Unfortunately, scams are another byproduct of a poor economy. Often, groups use a reputable name like “Veterans” to raise funds for their own profit. This becomes more prevalent as we draw closer to Veterans Day. Recently, the California Attorney General filed a lawsuit in the amount of 4.3 million dollars against a group called *Help Hospitalized Veterans*.

You may have heard or even contributed to this group. Of course, I would encourage you to support our veterans but don't be fooled. Keep your donations local with groups you know are based in the County.

Don't donate to groups that contact you by phone or by mail. Reason being, these groups usually involve professional fundraisers who take a large percentage off the top.

Another clue to perk your skepticism is if the plea for dollars sounds a bit too heart-wrenching, as if they're trying to guilt you into thinking that if you don't give, you don't care; as if you're not a good American. That's nonsense. The ones I love are those that send you these tchotchkes that you don't want or need – such as return address labels with your name spelled wrong. That's just more guilt. And who pays for it? You do, of course. And do the veterans get anything? This doesn't mean that these groups are not legal. For instance, there is a group working in Rockland and Westchester Counties based in Mount Vernon locally and Rhode Island nationally. They call themselves the, “Veterans Support Organization.”

You may have seen them outside of supermarkets around the County. They dress in semi-military clothing—camouflage pants, old style combat boots, etc. Further, they can be a bit aggressive in their techniques. They have nicely printed literature and hand-outs. Are they working inside the law? I can't say they're not. However, their “current year tax filing” that they have posted on their website, shows less than 7% of revenue goes to veterans' organizations and are simply re-donated.

An online service, www.charitynavigator.org that tracks charities, has an advisory on “Veterans Support Organization.” The Secretary of State in Tennessee is leveling \$50,000 in fines to the organization. On a federal level, Senator Patty Murray of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee is looking into “VSO” and has contacted Attorney General Eric Holder.

You don't have to take my word for it. You can simply Google “Veterans Support Organization” and discover how many media outlets across the country have done less than favorable stories on them. In addition, many government agencies, including ours, are looking into their activities. Our county veterans' organizations are hard-working volunteers. So if you give them a dollar, a dollar goes to the cause and not 7 cents.

Please don't waste your hard-earned dollars!

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS RESOURCES

This website contains links for just about everything related to the Vietnam War: history, statistics, photos, videos, Medal of Honor honorees, battles, war stories, weapons, aircraft, units, even cartoons!

<http://www.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas/Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

DISCOUNTS FOR VETERANS

The Marine Corps League of Rockland County sent us these lists of discounts of interest to veterans.

<http://www.militaryconnection.com/deals.asp - vetmilitarydeals>

<http://www.militaryconnection.com/senior-discounts.asp>

<http://www.militaryconnection.com/deals.asp - vetdaydeals>

BEIRUT BLAST 30 YEARS LATER

In a moment of quiet reflection, Ed Ayers sat in front a wall etched with the names of 241 Americans who were slaughtered 30 years ago when a suicide bomber drove a truck into a four-story military barracks in Beirut. He wept as he remembered his own peace-keeping service before his unit was replaced by the troops who were attacked. Read more:

<http://www.veteranstoday.com/2013/10/24/30-years-later-survivors-recall-beirut-blast/>

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SUPERSTORM SANDY



Pictured in front of the World's Tallest Sand Castle, raising Old Glory to officially open the World Record Event are Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8867 Color Guard Members T.J.Fearon, Ed Sofield, and Bill Duffy.

The Guinness Book of World Records has certified this as the world's largest sandcastle. It was built to honor the victims of Superstorm Sandy one year ago. For further information, view this video link:

<http://newjersey.news12.com/features/sandy/point-pleasant-sand-castle-certified-as-record-breaker-by-guinness-book-of-world-records-1.6348909>

WORLD WAR II SPITFIRE VIDEO

American Spitfire Pilot in WWII – interesting video on youtube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=ie3SrlLcUY&sns=em

ROCKLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CLASSES

Do you have heart disease, diabetes or any other chronic illness? Would you like to learn tips on how to improve your quality of life in spite of your illness?

Register for the Rockland County Department of Health's free class: **Living Well With Ongoing Health Conditions**. The class will meet for six Tuesdays, starting November 5th, 2013, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For further information or to sign up for the health classes, call Steve Levin at 845-364-2501 or Barbara Plasker at 845-364-3839.

PROPOSED NEW YORK STATE AMENDMENTS:

There are six proposed amendments on the 2013 New York State Election Day ballot. To view details of all 6 proposed amendments, use this link:
<http://www.elections.ny.gov/ProposedConsAmendments.html>

DIGITAL TOOLKIT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

A Handbook for Family & Friends of Service Members During Pre-Deployment, Deployment and Reintegration

This resource is free and available now as an eBook, on the web, and as a PDF file, and you can see it all now at

<http://www.everyoneservesbook.com>

Everyone Serves is a free digital toolkit designed to help military families through the emotional stressors associated with the deployment process.

VETS' REP IN ROCKLAND

Our Department of Labor Veterans' Representative is Natalie Hernandez. If you are in the market for employment possibilities or a career change, contact Natalie at 845-356-5429, or via e-mail at: Natalie.Hernandez@labor.ny.gov or on twitter at NatDOLVetRep.

MILITARY RECORDS

To obtain military personnel records, visit this website:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY SURVIVORS

The Office of Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth (Illinois) is happy to share with you information about current opportunities regarding our military men and women:

Are you or someone you know a recently discharged Veteran who is unemployed since being discharged, and is looking for a long-term career? The Veteran's Rapid Employment Initiative is an accelerated program that opens doors to Careers in Manufacturing at no cost. Sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and administered by Business and Career Services, Inc. For more information, please call (847) 437-9396.

JPMorgan Chase has established a Military Survivor Program that offers debt forgiveness to surviving family members and beneficiaries for the debt of Chase military customers who have been killed in combat action or died in a combat theater of operations since January 1, 2011. For specific criteria and eligibility requirements, please call a Chase service specialist: (847) 469-0110. Overseas: (318) 340-3308 (collect).

A number of U.S. companies launched the 100,000 Jobs Mission in March 2011 with a goal of hiring 100,000 transitioning service members and military veterans by 2020. 100,000 Jobs Mission launched a new web tool to help veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses find the right fit for their next civilian job. The Veteran Talent Exchange facilitates the sharing and referral of candidate profiles among the 100,000 Jobs Mission employers. For more information, visit <http://100000jobsmission.com>

The 100,000 Jobs Mission has a presence on the US Veterans Pipeline, a web portal designed to increase veterans' chances of finding employment by matching veterans' military skills with open positions in the corporate sector, identifying skill or education needs and providing discussion forums. Veterans can search the US Veterans Pipeline to learn about job openings across the member organizations. <https://usveteranspipeline.com>.

TRANSFORMING VA BY SCANNING VETERANS' CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS

by [Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)

VA has established the Veterans Claims Intake Program (VCIP) to implement and optimize digitization and electronic intake for Veterans' claims material. Paper documents and other media shipped by our regional offices to our scanning facilities are converted into digital, searchable files and electronically placed into a Veteran's eFolder in the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) [...]. • [Continue Reading →](#)
<http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/10/transforming-va-scanning-veterans-claims-benefits/>

"HONORING VETERANS – SAVING LIVES": SECOND ANNUAL JOINT INITIATIVE TO SCREEN VETERANS AT RISK FOR LUNG CANCER

[Donnie La Curan](#) in [Veteran News](#)
Lung Cancer Alliance (LCA) and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) today announced the second annual joint initiative to educate America's veterans on their individual risk of developing lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths, and the life-saving benefits of early detection using low-dose CT scans. The initiative, which has been expanded to 14 medical [...] [Continue Reading →](#)
<http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/10/honoring-veterans-saving-lives-second-annual-joint-initiative-screen-veterans-risk-lung-cancer/>

POW/MIA UPDATE: OCTOBER 15, 2013

by [Donnie La Curan](#)
in [Veteran News](#)

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED-FOR:
There are still 1,643 personnel listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO just posted the identification of SSG Lawrence Woods, USA/SF, of TN, listed as KIA/BNR in South Vietnam on October 24, 1964, is now accounted for. His remains were recovered on April [...]. • [Continue Reading →](#)
<http://www.veteransresources.org/2013/10/powmia-update-october-15-2013/>



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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 send a note to info@rockvets.com. Your e-mail address will immediately be deleted from our newsletter mailing list. If you find any of this information useful, please pass it along to others.

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 e-mail us at: info@rockvets.com or on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/rockvets.

On the first Friday of each month, just after the 10:00 a.m. news-break, RockVets has a live call-in talk show on Rockland County’s local radio station – WRRC 1300 AM. We encourage you to call-in and ask any questions you may have relating to veterans or the military. This 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 the internet at: www.wrcr.com. So please listen in, and call if you have questions or information to share.

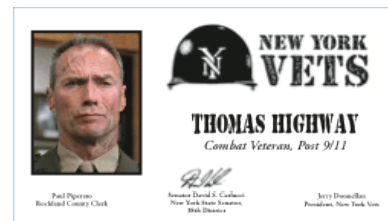
The next radio broadcast will be on Friday, November 1st, 2013 right after the 10:00 a.m. newsbreak. This month’s show is sponsored by the Marine Corps League - Rockland County Detachment and we appreciate their support.

So that we can keep you up to date on as much information as possible, we have included links to many articles so you may read further about those items. At the time the newsletter is sent to you, the links are all working well. If the links do not work for you, just cut and paste the address into your browser and that should bring you to the correct article, or you can do a search for the article on the web. Providing the information in this newsletter does not necessarily constitute our endorsement or opinion.

If you have information that can benefit the military and veteran community, or would like the community to know about an event your group is hosting, please send it to us so we can publish it in the next newsletter: info@rockvets.com.

[And coming soon...]

NY Vets ID Card for Post 9/11 Combat Veterans



**VETERANS SERVICE
AGENCY OF ROCKLAND**

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

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**WE ARE HERE TO CARE FOR
YOU WHO HAVE WORN THE
UNIFORM – NO MATTER
WHERE OR WHEN YOU SERVED.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.**