

VETERANS SERVICE BUREAU - 6510

MISSION

The mission of the Veterans Service Bureau is to ensure that all honorably discharged military personnel in Albany County and their dependents receive the benefits to which they are entitled under the law. Specifically, Albany County veterans and their dependents receive the maximum benefits to which they are entitled to from Federal, State, and local government sources. We will accomplish this while ensuring that our veterans and their family members are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Veterans Service Bureau assists veterans and their dependents in filing claims with various governmental entities by determining whether or not individuals meet the eligibility requirements for these benefits.

Albany County Veteran served by the Bureau apply for some the following benefits:

VA Pension: payments to wartime veterans with limited income and are permanently or totally disabled and are 65 or older.

Service Connected Disability Benefits: compensation received from the Veterans Administration if veteran is at least 10 percent disabled as a result of military service.

Aid and Attendance: Pension benefit for certain widows of veterans to help pay for their medical or nursing facility costs.

Assisted Living Benefits: includes Blind Annuity Benefits that pays blind veterans and eligible widowed spouses who have not re-married.

Home Loan Guaranties: private lender loans guaranteed by the Veterans Administration to eligible veterans and certain surviving spouses to purchase a home.

Dependents and Survivors Benefits: Death and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension, and a Health and Medical Program for dependents and survivors of a veteran.

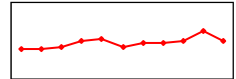
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

- The 2009 Executive Budget includes \$3,936 for the Bureau to continue a veterans initiative that begun in 2007. The Bureau will again host an annual "Veterans Benefits Fair" so Albany County veterans will be able to learn information about veterans' benefits, employment services, health and mental health services, housing programs, educational services and many other community resources.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU

- The Bureau's provides general information and referrals to veterans regarding employment, health care issues, and Federal Agencies including the Small Business Association and the Social Security Administration.
- Conducts a monthly Honor-A-Veteran Program to recognize the County's deceased veterans for their service in the military as well as in the community.
- Participates in the annual "Capital District Veterans Stand Down" event for Homeless Veterans and their families, as well as those veterans who are at risk of being homeless, need food, clothing, dental care, legal representation, and counseling.
- Holds an annual "Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony" in partnership with the Albany County Executive's Office and the USS Slater DE 766 Destroyer Escort Historical Museum.

APPROPRIATION HISTORY



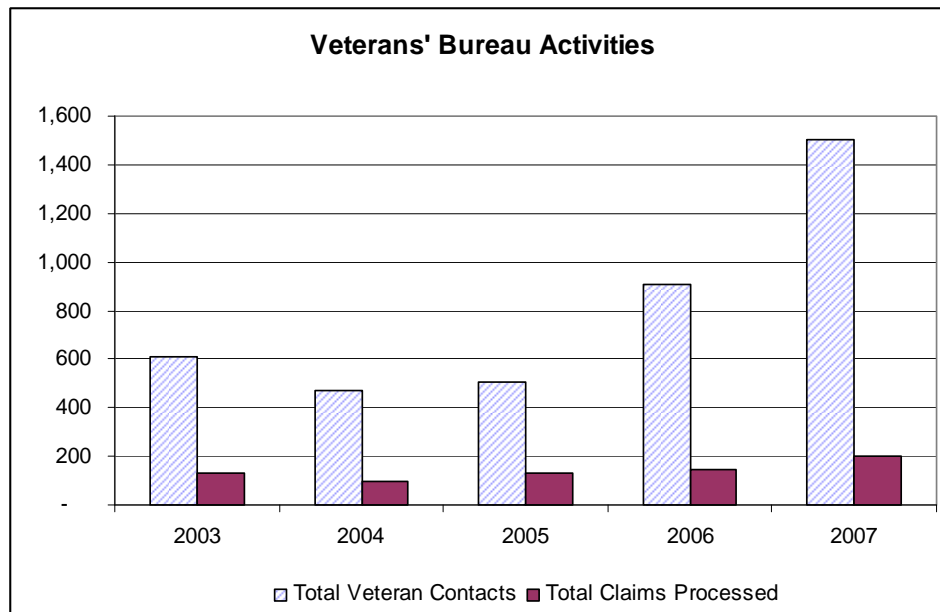
1998:	\$124,100
1999:	\$126,441
2000:	\$132,943
2001:	\$151,136
2002:	\$153,624
2003:	\$132,393
2004:	\$145,298
2005:	\$146,057
2006:	\$147,043
2007:	\$181,053
2008:	\$149,903

CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Participates in the “Helmets to Hard hats” program to help returning Iraqi veterans find employment and possible careers with local trade unions in the construction trades.

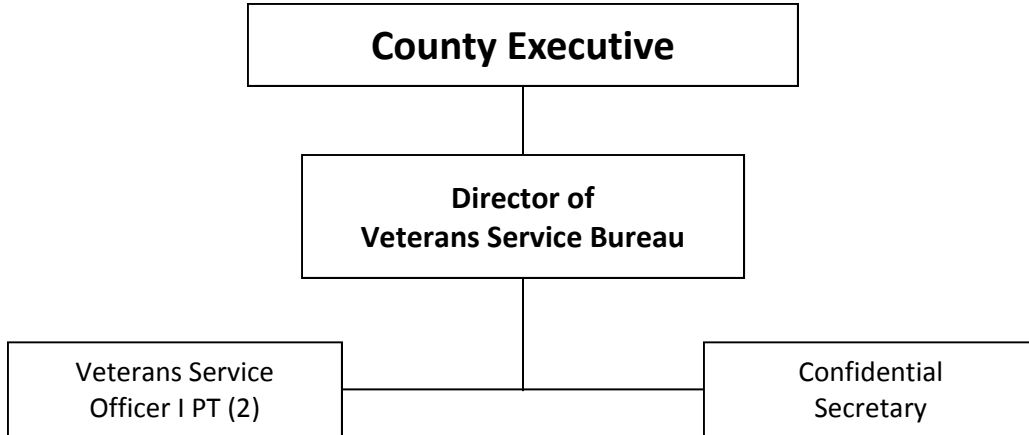


STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2009

The Bureau will continue to implement programs established in prior years, including:

- An outreach program with local nursing homes to identify current residents who are veterans, and determine whether or not they are receiving the benefits to which they are entitled.
- A continued joint effort with the Department of Social Services on the “Veterans-Medicaid” demonstration project for the purpose of determining if veterans are eligible for VA Health Care versus the Department of Social Services Medicaid program.
- Continued efforts to find new ways to maintain awareness of the needs and obstacles that our current and returning Albany County veterans face.
- Publicizing information about the function and services available through the bureau, as well as phone numbers, web-addresses and referral information to governmental and non-governmental agencies involved with veteran’s care.

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Account	Description	2007 Expended	2008 Adjusted	2009 Proposed	2008-09 Change	2008-09 Percent Change	
Appropriations							
Veterans Service Bureau-(6510)							
	Personnel Services	\$ 105,265	\$ 110,703	\$ 114,524	\$ 3,821	3.5%	
	Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 194	\$ 0	\$(194)	(100.0%)	
	Contractual Expenses	\$ 38,528	\$ 20,524	\$ 13,043	\$(7,481)	(36.5%)	
	Fringe Benefits	\$ 20,464	\$ 18,482	\$ 19,634	\$ 1,152	6.2%	
	Veterans Service Bureau	\$ 164,256	\$ 149,903	\$ 147,201	\$(2,702)	(1.8%)	
	Appropriations	\$ 164,256	\$ 149,903	\$ 147,201	\$(2,702)	(1.8%)	
Revenue							
	Veterans Service Bureau	\$(10,000)	\$(10,000)	\$(10,000)	\$ 0	0.0%	
	Revenue	\$(10,000)	\$(10,000)	\$(10,000)	\$ 0	0.0%	
	County Share	\$ 154,256	\$ 139,903	\$ 137,201	\$(2,702)	(1.9%)	
			2008 Adjusted	2009 Requested	2009 Proposed	2008-09 Changes	2008-09 Percent Change
	VETERANS SERVICE BUREAU		4	4	4	0	0.0%