

# 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. The Department assists Albany County veterans and their dependents in order to receive the maximum benefits to which they are entitled from Federal, State, and local government sources. The Department will accomplish this while ensuring that all 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 guiding individuals through the application processes and eligibility requirements for these benefits.

The Bureau provides assistance to Albany County Veterans applying for the following benefits:

- **VA Pension** for wartime veterans with limited income who are permanently disabled and are 65 or older.
- **Service Connected Disability Benefits** from the Veterans Administration to veterans at least 10 percent disabled as a result of military service.
- **Aid and Attendance** pension benefits for certain widows of veterans to help pay for their medical or nursing facility costs.
- **Assisted Living Benefits**, including Blind Annuity Benefits, pay blind veterans and eligible widowed spouses who have not re-married.
- **Home Loan Guaranties** by the Veterans Administration of private lender loans to eligible veterans and certain surviving spouses to purchase a home.
- **Dependents and Survivors Benefits**, including Death and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and a Health and Medical Program for dependents and survivors of a veteran.

In addition, the Bureau 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.

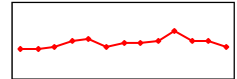
The Bureau plays an important role in highlighting the contributions of the County's veterans, recognizing the challenges they face after military service and facilitating the transition to civilian life. The Bureau conducts a monthly Honor-A-Veteran Program to recognize the County's deceased veterans for their service in the military as well as in the community. In addition, the Bureau 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.

To assist veterans, the Bureau 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. The Bureau also 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.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2011

The 2011 Executive Budget reduces the Veterans Bureau one administrative staff position through the Early Retirement Incentive. The Veterans Bureau and the Department of Social Services will subsequently share more administrative duties to ensure service delivery continues without interruption.

## 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
2009:	\$147,201
2010:	\$132,941

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Veterans Service Bureau  
County of Albany  
162 Washington Avenue  
Room 605  
Albany, New York 12210  
Office: (518) 447-7710  
Fax: (518) 447-7714