



# RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

Rensselaer County  
Unified Family Services  
Veterans Service Agency

99 Troy Road  
East Greenbush, New York  
Phone: (518) 270-2760  
FAX: (518) 270-2956

[www.rensco.com](http://www.rensco.com)

## Van Transportation...

- \* Don't drive and need to get to the VA Medical Center
- \* We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC for *most morning* medical appointments.

For more details please call  
(518) 270-2760.



## VETERANS CRISIS LINE

**DIAL 988**  
PRESS #1

Confidential chat at  
[VeteransCrisisLine.net/](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/)  
Chat or text to (838255)  
TTY service 1-800-799-4889

Confidential support 24  
hours a day, 7 days a  
week, 365 days a year,  
for veterans and their  
loved ones.

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STEVEN F. McLAUGHLIN  
County Executive

CHRISTOPHER E. ALBERT  
Director

## 5TH ANNUAL

Ride Date 08/02/2025  
Rain Date: 08/09/2025

# PTSD & SERVICE DOG AWARENESS RIDE

## Start:

**Brunswick  
Harley**  
1130 Hoosick Rd  
Troy, NY 12180

## End:

**Brunswick Elks  
Lodge**  
665 Brunswick Rd  
Troy, NY 12180



## 2025

Registration @ 10  
am - includes  
free lunch

**KSU at noon**

Rider \$20  
Passenger \$10

**RIDE BLESSING  
ENTERTAINMENT  
RAFFLE**

**Register Today!**

<https://ibisempertraining.org/events.php>



Brunswick Elks

## KARSHI-KHANABAD (K-2) AIR BASE

Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, also known as K2 or Camp Stronghold Freedom, was a Soviet-era air base used by U.S. Army, Air Force, and Marine forces from October 2001 to November 2005 to support missions into Afghanistan. The base was one square mile in southeastern Uzbekistan, near the border of Tajikistan, shown in Figure 1. K2 is currently home to the 60th Separate Mixed Aviation Brigade of the Uzbek Air Force.

Reports from the Defense Health Agency shows subsurface volatile organic compounds, airborne particulate matter, and depleted uranium fragments were present at K2 prior to U.S. operations in October 2001.



Potential Exposures	Current Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jet Fuel</li> <li>• Volatile organic compounds</li> <li>• Particulate matter and dust</li> <li>• Depleted uranium</li> <li>• Asbestos</li> <li>• Lead-based paint</li> <li>• Lead in water samples</li> </ul>	<p>VA currently recognizes presumptions related to Burn Pits and Other Toxins (BPOTs) under 38 U.S.C. § 1119 for those deployed to K2. If an individual served at K2, has a recognized presumptive condition, and meets other basic eligibility requirements, they may be eligible for presumptions related to BPOT exposure.</p>

- VA encourages Veterans to submit a claim if they believe their disability is related to military service. K2 deployed Veterans are covered for all recognized presumptive disabilities and diseases related to BPOT.
- Veterans who served at K2 may have been exposed to jet fuel, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter and dust, depleted uranium, asbestos, lead-based paint, and lead in water samples, which are considered TERAs. Therefore, a TERA medical opinion may be warranted based on the potential exposures.
- VA does not require that a condition or location be on a presumptive list to grant a Veteran eligibility to disability compensation benefits. In such cases, VA would consider the claim on a case-by-case basis.
- VA provides Veteran-centric decisions. VA grants disability compensation benefits when there is evidence showing that the Veteran has a current chronic disability related to their military service; therefore, a thorough review of the claims file is often necessary.
- VA is aware that a large number of deployed Veterans were involved in classified missions to K2. VA is able to verify classified or restricted information using the Military Records Research Center (MRRC).
- If Veterans have any questions or concerns regarding their benefits or claims, contact the VA tollfree number at 1-800-MyVA411 to speak with a VA representative.

## Other Resources

- [Karshi-Khanabad \(K2\) Air Base Public Health \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/k2/)
- [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/burn-pits/)
- [Public HealthK2 Potential Contaminants of Concerns \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/k2-potential-contaminants/)
- [Defense Health Agency K2 Air Base Exposures](https://www.va.gov/k2-exposures/)
- [VA Pact Act information page \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/pact-act/)
- [VA Press Release: VA takes steps to expand access to benefits for Veterans who served at K2 and their survivors](https://www.va.gov/press-release-va-takes-steps-to-expand-access-to-benefits-for-veterans-who-served-at-k2-and-their-survivors/)
- Visit <https://www.va.gov/> to learn more about VA benefits and services, including how to enroll or apply for benefits.



## **NEW YORK STATE KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL**

### **Description**

The New York State Korean War Commemorative Medal was created to honor New York State Service Members who served during the Korean War, in the timeframe of 27 June 1950 – 31 January 1955.

### **Eligibility**

Service Member who served in one of the following locations between 27 June 1950 and 31 January 1955:

- Korean Peninsula
- its contiguous waters
- Korean airspace

The New York State Korean War Commemorative Medal does not provide the holder with any monetary benefits or disability compensation. It is simply an expression of support and appreciation from the New York State Legislature and the people of New York to veterans for their honorable military service.



## **NEW YORK STATE VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL**

### **Description**

The New York State Vietnam War Commemorative Medal was created to honor New York State Service Members who served during the Vietnam War, in the timeframe of 01 November 1955 – 17 May 1975.

### **Eligibility**

Service Member who served in one of the following locations between 01 November 1955 and 17 May 1975:

- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Laos
- Cambodia
- its contiguous waters
- Vietnam airspace

The New York State Vietnam War Commemorative Medal does not provide the holder with any monetary benefits or disability compensation. It is simply an expression of support and appreciation from the New York State Legislature and the people of New York to veterans for their honorable military service.

To apply for NYS Military Awards and Decorations: <https://dmna.ny.gov/awards/>, you can either apply online or download the form to apply by mail.

For questions about New York State Military awards, contact the New York State Awards Program:

**Phone:** [518-786-0468](tel:518-786-0468)

**Email:** [ng.ny.nyarng.list.mnp-awards@army.mil](mailto:ng.ny.nyarng.list.mnp-awards@army.mil)

## ALBANY STRATTON VA WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

If you are interested in having the Albany Stratton VA Women Veterans Program Newsletter mailed to you, please reach out to Jamie Harrigan.

**Jamie Harrigan, Program Support Assistant**  
**Women's Veterans Health Center**  
**Albany Stratton VA Medical Center**  
**113 Holland Avenue**  
**Albany, NY 12208**  
**Office: 518-626-7274**  
**Jamie.Harrigan@va.gov**



**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**  
 Stratton VA Medical Center

### A Message from our County Executive

#### **A Wall to Remember**

Those that served in the Vietnam War will never be forgotten by those of us in Rensselaer County. That is especially true of those who were lost during the long conflict in Southeast Asia.

Some of those lost in Vietnam were even more present during the visit in early June by The Wall That Heals, a powerful tribute to service and sacrifice. The nationally-recognized monument is a large-scale replica of the famed Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C. and tours America. The names of those lost in the conflict are listed on the monument.

The several-day visit by The Wall That Heals to LaSalle Institute was arranged and supported by the CRAB Garrison #1954 in Troy. The CRAB club is dedicated to four Troy men (Cicarelli, Rea, Agars and Bevevino) who died during World War II. How appropriate for the CRAB club to ensure those who died in Vietnam are never forgotten.

Rensselaer County was proud to be a sponsor of the visit and thanks go out to the CRAB club, LaSalle Institute, local veteran organizations and our own Chris Albert of the county Veteran Service Agency. It was powerful to see friends and family find a name on the Wall, do an etching of the name or share a quiet moment. Many volunteers helped assemble and take down the monument, making the visit even more meaningful.

The Wall That Heals is a reminder of the high cost of our freedom and those who made the payment to ensure we enjoy peace and security today. We will never forget those who served and those who did not return home.

**Steven F. McLaughlin**

### **Upcoming Events:**



*Call us by the 15th of the month and  
we will list your event .*

**July 14th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony-County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am:**

**William H. McLaughlin- USA, HM3-WWII**

**July 19th...Veterans Motorcycle Club NY Chapter 8 19th Annual Veterans Run Registration@ 10am, Kickstands up @12pm, starts at Spitzes Harley Davidson, 1970 Central Ave., Albany and ends at Chapter 8 Clubhouse, 6437 Amsterdam Rd., Schenectady.**

**July 20th...Veterans Hall at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds Open House 10am-2pm**

**July 20th ...Uncle Sam Chapter Antique Truck Show at the Schaghticoke Fairgrounds 8am-3pm**

**August 2nd...PTSD & Service Dog Awareness Ride, Brunswick Harley 1130 Hoosick St., Troy to Brunswick Elks 665 Brunswick Rd., Troy**

**August 11th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony-County Legislative Chambers at 8:15 am:**

**John J. Zink—USMC, PFC-WWII**

**August 27th-September 1st...Schaghticoke Fair, come see us at our table in the Rensselaer County Building**