

Remembering Our Veterans and Our American Freedoms *in this brochure:*

- > Legislative Initiatives and Other Programs;
- > Useful Contacts;
- > Operation Recognition;
- > Veterans' Charities; and
- > Invitation to Veterans' Event

ASSEMBLYMAN

PHIL
PALMESANO

District Office:

105 East Steuben Street
Bath, NY 14810
607-776-9691
palmesano@assembly.state.ny.us

Albany Office:

723 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5791

If you would like to know more about benefits available to veterans and their families, please contact my district office for a veterans brochure.

Dear Friend,

Our nation's veterans and those currently serving in the United States Armed Forces represent the very best of America. We owe these heroic, honorable men and women who have served our country with humble and selfless dedication a tremendous debt of gratitude.

We simply cannot fathom the courageous efforts and choices these brave men and women have had to make for us. Without their sacrifice, and the sacrifice of their families, none of us would enjoy the freedoms that we all cherish today.

It is so important that we never take these rights for granted, which is why we must always remember to thank the brave men and women who have fought to protect our freedoms. I have prepared this brochure to provide you with information to help our veterans, highlight the programs in New York State which benefit our veterans and their families, and to keep you up-to-date on the issues affecting our veterans in Albany.

I would ask that if you are a veteran or know one, please share this information. It is my hope that some of the information in this brochure will be helpful to you. Finally, please remember to also say "thank you" to the families of those who have served our nation, as they have fought the silent battle at home supporting our veterans and their efforts.

Thank you again to all of our veterans who have sacrificed so very much for our country. If I can ever be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

With very warm regards,



Phil Palmesano



Remembering

Legislative Initiatives and Other Programs

New York Patriot Plan is a package of benefits and protections for active duty service members. The majority of provisions applying only to residents of the State of New York. For a complete list of benefits, please visit <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/members/patriot.php> 518-786-4581

Veterans' Tuition Awards (VTA) are awards for full-time and part-time study for eligible Veterans matriculated at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or in an approved vocational program in New York State. www.hesc.com/content.nsf 1-888-VETSNY (838-7697)

NYS Veterans' Property Tax Exemption provides a partial exemption on real property taxes for Veterans of defined periods of war, Veterans who received expeditionary medals or certain family members as allowed by law. An Application for Veterans' Exemption from Real Property Taxation (Form RP-458) is filed with the local assessor. Evidence of Military Service (DD214/copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) is required. For more information, contact your local tax assessor.

Homes for Veterans Program is administered by the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) and the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs. Eligible Veterans may receive fixed interest rate mortgages with rates considerably lower than those offered by standard banks. The program requires only a minimal down payment and closing-cost assistance is available. Interested Veterans should contact SONYMA at 800-382-4663 or visit www.nyshcr.org.

Yellow Ribbon Program is designed to provide redeploying soldiers and families a robust support network of information and services available from county, state, federal and private outreach organizations upon their return home. The 30-Day and 60-Day Yellow Ribbon Events are an important part of the reintegration process. Please visit <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/family/reintegration.php> for more information.

Information provided by the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs. For detailed information on the above or other exemptions or discounts, please visit their website at <http://veterans.ny.gov/state-benefits.html> or contact your local Veterans' Affairs office, also provided in this brochure.

Important Phone Numbers

Steuben County Veterans Service Agency	607-664-2528
Yates County Veterans Service Agency	315-536-5196
NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs	888-838-7697
VA Information on Health Care Benefits and Services	877-222-8387
VA Education Benefits	888-442-4551
VA Insurance	800-669-8477
VA Home Loan Guarantee.....	888-244-6711
Employment Helmets to Hardhats.....	866-741-6210
Troops to Teachers	800-231-6242
VetBiz – Center for Veterans Enterprise	866-584-2344
Bath VAMC	607-664-4000 or 877-845-3247



Our Veterans

Getting the Recognition You Deserve

The following is a list of state military awards for which veterans may apply. Many veterans are unaware that they are entitled to receive these awards, and I want to be sure the brave heroes of the United States Armed Forces are recognized for their achievements. To receive an application or more information about these awards, please contact my office at 607-776-9691.

Conspicuous Service Cross - The Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps; and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who, while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The award of the Conspicuous Service Cross is based on prior award of at least one of the following military decorations:

For more information, visit

<http://dmna.state.ny.us/awards/csc.html>

or call (518) 786-4520

Medal for Merit – The Medal for Merit may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; or, a non-New York State citizen who is an active member in the New York State organized militia, and as an active member in the New York State organized militia, served with units of the New York State organized militia while on federal active duty for purposes other than training and/or annual training; whose entire service was honorable and who were recipients of a valor, achievement, commendation, or meritorious service decoration, of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Conspicuous Service Cross, or whose service was in direct support of combat operations while serving in the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard.

For more information, visit

<http://dmna.state.ny.us/awards/mfm.html>

or call (518) 786-4520

Conspicuous Service Star – The Conspicuous Service Star may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable and who were recipients of a unit commendation arising from combat while serving in the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard.

For more information visit

<http://dmna.state.ny.us/awards/css.html>

or call (518) 786-4520

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Welcome Home Picnic & Veterans Information Fair

The Bath VA Medical Center, in conjunction with various veterans' and community organizations throughout the region, is hosting a Welcome Home Picnic and Veterans Information Fair from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sept. 17 at Watson Homestead in Painted Post.

This event is an opportunity to say "thank you" to our brave servicemen and servicewomen who recently returned from combat operations, such as Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. This event is for our troops, their families, and all of our veterans who have served our country.

As part of the information fair, vital benefit information for which area veterans may be eligible will be available. The event will include food, music, children's activities and swimming, military and sports displays, as well as special guest appearances.

For more information about this event, please contact the Bath VAMC OEF/OIF/OND program office at 607-664-4542.

Some well-known Veterans' Charities

- **National Veterans Foundation:**

Veterans' Hotline 1-888-777-4443

- **Wounded Warrior Project:**

1-877-832-6997

- **Vietnam Veterans of America:**

1-800-VVA-1316



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