

# RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS NEWSLETTER

KATHLEEN M. JIMINO  
County Executive

Peter K. Goebel  
Director

Volume 12, Issue 3  
May/June 2017

Rensselaer County  
Unified Family Services  
Veterans Service Agency  
1600 Seventh Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180  
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 or the Troy VA Clinic?
- \* We offer complimentary van transportation to and from the VAMC and Clinic for *most morning* medical appointments.

For more details please call  
270-2760.



## VETERANS CRISIS LINE

1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1

**\*\*Confidential chat at  
Veterans CrisisLine.net  
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.

## Chuck Dermott Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Burden Lake Country Club

The Uncle Sam Golf League is sponsoring the Chuck Dermott Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament. Born and raised in New York, Chuck (1949-2013) enlisted into the US Marine Corps in 1967, serving in Vietnam (1967-1969) before his honorable discharge in 1973.

Upon his discharge, Chuck moved to Rensselaer County, married Katie McMahon and had two sons, Christopher and William. Chuck worked in construction prior to his 20 year employment with Conrail/CSX in Selkirk. Retiring in 2012, he relocated to South Carolina. Chuck was a founding member of the Uncle Sam Golf League. Chuck loved to golf, hunt and fish.

Chuck passed in 2013. He was buried with full military honors at Saratoga National Cemetery.

We are seeking hole sponsors (\$100 per sign), as well as donations/raffle prizes. If interested in becoming a sponsor, and/or to donate/play in the tournament (\$100 per person w/18 holes, lunch, dinner, and prizes) please contact Marco Shafer at 518-283-7658 or Mark Burton at [markburton63@gmail.com](mailto:markburton63@gmail.com). All checks payable to: *Uncle Sam Golf League*.

The proceeds will permit us to honor Chuck by adding his name to the Sand Lake Veteran's Memorial Park wall and will also benefit local Veteran Organizations.

Thank you in advance.



**Flag Project  
Saturday May 27, 2017**

**Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery  
200 Duell Road**

**Schuylerville, NY 12871**

**Ceremony: 8 A.M. At Main Flag Pole**

**Placing of Flags: Immediately Following at Assigned Sections**

**Donations accepted through AUSA Capital District Chapter**

**59 Meadow Rue Pl Malta, NY 12020**

**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. NY Chapter #2**

**P.O Box 243 Delmar, NY 12054**



**Veterans of Lansingburgh, Inc.**  
777 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Troy, New York 12182  
Telephone: (518) 233-8656  
Website: [www.thelansingburghvets.com](http://www.thelansingburghvets.com)



April 18, 2017

RE: Development Plans at Monument Square in Troy

Dear Mayor Madden:

I am writing to you as Commander of the largest Veterans Organization in the City of Troy. I have concerns and questions regarding the development plans for Monument Square.

I am concerned that plans are being made to develop the area without regard for both the Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials that are presently located there. In addition to those two memorials, in the mid 1990's the Troy City Council granted by resolution to give land on the riverfront for the construction of a WWII war memorial. The tract of land is located between the Korean and Vietnam Memorials.

Myself and the Veteran Community would like to know what the City of Troy plans are for the current memorials and the area designated for the WWII memorial. Will the memorials stay? (the attached rendering introduced on 5 April 2017 shows the area where the Korean War memorial was, but it is absent from the drawing). Are there plans to relocate the current memorials to another location?

I understand the significance of the riverfront to the City of Troy and the value it has. I also want to make the elected officials aware that the Korean & Vietnam Memorials are equally important to the Veterans and their families. Before any plans are made concerning the memorials, I would hope the elected officials take into consideration the veterans and their families.

If the Korean & Vietnam memorials are to remain in their present locations, I hope that the plans include easy parking so that the veterans and their families can easily access the monuments. The remaining Korean War Vets are getting up there in years and the Vietnam Vets are not far behind them. Whatever considerations have been made for those memorials I hope hold true to the area given to the WWII monument. Keep in mind that although the monuments are located in Troy, they are County Wide Monuments.

If the plan is to relocate the monuments, has the Veteran Community been made aware of the proposed plans? I nor any other local veteran I know has any insight or information on this project currently.

If the plan is to relocate the memorials, I would like to suggest that Powers Park on 113<sup>th</sup> St and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue be considered as a location.

Page 1 of 2 Pages


**"If you love your freedom, thank a Vet!"**

The park has ample room to house the current Korean and Vietnam Memorials, the WWII memorial, and any other war memorial that would be planned in the future. The park is easily accessible from the City of Troy as well as I-787. Parking would not be an issue as there is parking on all four sides of the park which would allow people to park near the monument they want to visit and access it easily.

Presently, Powers Park is only used for flea markets, community concerts and local youth group sports practices. All these activities could be easily moved to Knickerbocker Park where there is ample parking both by the ice skating rink and softball fields. Years ago, there was a wooden stage located in Knickerbocker Park for concerts for the Uncle Sam Day Parade, but it no longer exists. Recently, the City of Troy received a large grant for Powers Park. Would monies from that grant be available to pay for the monuments to be moved? Could the developer pay for movement costs?

If the monuments were moved from the riverfront park, the available land would only increase the ability to make it more attractive to the developers and visitors. I hope the administration takes the time to strongly consider the veterans community concern and would include us before any decision is made that impacts the current or proposed veteran monuments in riverfront park. I have copied the County Executive, Deputy Mayor, President of the Troy City Council and all the veteran organizations in Rensselaer County. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further,

Sincerely,



PJ Higgett

U.S. Army, Iraqi War Veteran  
Sergeant Major (Retired)  
Commander, Veterans of Lansingburgh  
Cell: (518) 221-3428  
Email: [burghvets@yahoo.com](mailto:burghvets@yahoo.com)

Cc; County Executive  
Deputy Mayor  
President of the Troy City Council  
Veterans Groups in Rensselaer County

### **A Message from Rensselaer County Executive Kathleen M. Jimino**

The month of May brings us two very special days, Mother's Day and Memorial Day. As members of our armed services continue to find themselves in harms way all across the globe, I hope that we will keep all those serving in our armed forces in our thoughts and prayers, especially all military moms or moms currently serving in our armed forces who on this Mothers Day will be separated from their loved ones. To be apart from your child because you or they are in harms way makes for a difficult day under any circumstances let alone on Mother's Day.

As well, on Memorial Day as we honor those who have fallen while fighting for the freedoms we hold so dear I also hope you will join me in taking the time to share with your loved ones of a younger generation the true meaning of this hallowed day. Please use this as an opportunity to remind others that our freedoms are not free. Rather they are a gift from the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States military. For those we honor on Memorial Day the price of our freedoms was their life.

Sincerely,

*Kathleen M. Jimino*

### **MARCHERS WANTED**



**June 11, 2017, Annual Troy Flag Day Parade.**  
**Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency**  
**is looking for veterans to march with us in the parade.**  
**If you are interested, please call our office for details**  
**at (518) 270-2760.**

### **Upcoming Events:**



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

May 8th...Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:

*Edward F. Dougherty, US Navy, WWII*

May 25th... Melrose, Schaghticoke & Valley Falls Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 6:30 pm in Valley Falls

May 27th...Flag Project at Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery at 8a.m.

May 27th ...Comedy Night at the Veterans of Lansingburgh, \$20 per person-call Lisa at (518) 235-0476 for tickets

May 27th... East Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10 am

May 28th... Rensselaer Memorial Day Parade, ceremony @ 1pm - step off @ 2 pm

May 29th... MEMORIAL DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

May 29th... Sand Lake Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 10am

May 29th... Hoosick Falls Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am

May 29th... Castleton Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 10am

May 29th... 21st Annual Lansingburgh Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11 am rain or shine

May 29th... Berlin Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 11am

May 29th... Poestenkill Memorial Day Parade @ 11am

May 29th... North Greenbush Memorial Day Parade, step off @ 1:30 pm

May 29th... Nassau Memorial Day Parade, step-off @ 2pm

June 11th... Troy Flag Day Parade, step-off @ 1pm

June 12th... Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Ceremony, Legislative Chambers at 8:30am:

*Keith R. Gallup, KWE, USMC*