

Department Name	Veteran Services Bureau
Account(s)	6510

Department Function
To assist county Veterans and their families in obtaining any county, state, or federal benefits that they are entitled to for their service in the military, and finding available resources. Veterans Service Bureau provides many services and resources to the Veterans of Albany County which include: Initiate, develop, and advance claims for county, state, and federal Veteran benefits • Guide Veterans as they enroll in the VA Health Care System • Counsel and assist with burial and death benefits for Veterans’ survivors • Coordinate emergency assistance from appropriate agencies • Refer Veterans and their families to other appropriate programs for assistance • Obtaining Military records • Assistance in obtaining temporary housing and necessities for homeless Veterans • Coordinate and maintain the Return the FAVOR discount program • Honoring outstanding deceased and living Veterans • Provide outreach to organizations and institutions • Collaborate with Dept. of Mental Health to deliver the March On program

Current Year Highlights
Conducted a monthly Honor-A-Veteran ceremony * Assisted the County Executive in recognizing distinguished Veterans for their service in the military & the community * Worked with Veterans and spouses in submitting claims for compensation, pensions, aid and attendance, and burials * Distributed information and guided Veterans to available resources * Obtained funding from NYS for the Dwyer Peer Support Program to expand the Peer Support Program to include: Sweat with Vets Hot Yoga classes, Healthy Heroes – Veterans Training Program, and Jiu Jitsu for Veterans, Crossfit Strength & Conditioning class, Veterans’ Family Open Skate at the Albany County Ice Rink * Provided Veteran resources events: Veteran PTSD/stress relief gardening program, Veterans Mental Health First Aid course * Offered weekly Veterans’ Coffee Club and Veterans’ Breakfast as well as monthly lunch with Shaker Place Veterans, partnering with local restaurants* Conducted a second suicide prevention training event * Provided outreach at Veteran events and Veteran organization meetings, including Veterans’ Nights Out at the MVP Arena and awareness events during Firewolves & Firebird games * Organized a trip with the Delmar American Legion to a Mets baseball game* Planned and held second Veterans’ Retreat at the former College of St. Rose *Held second Veterans Service to Success Resource Fair* Assisted in the Albany County Joint Veterans Committee in the planning for Memorial Day & Veteran Day events * Ensured Veteran markers and flags were placed at the Eagle Hill cemetery for Memorial Day and flags were supplied to many other cemeteries within the County * Obtained NYS Veteran Service Officer certification as well as maintaining American Legion certification* Held our first Women’s Veterans Engage Event * Supported the VA in establishing a homeless Veteran Stand-Down event.

Next Year Projects
<p>Prioritize Dwyer Peer Support funding to maintain and expand the Veteran Peer Support program in Albany County.</p> <p>Organize an annual awareness event for the prevention of suicide & problem gambling with Veterans.</p> <p>Conduct women’s Veteran support and events throughout the year to better serve our female Veterans.</p> <p>Organize a yearly Veterans Day Out BBQ at the former College of St. Rose.</p> <p>Conduct Veteran Mental Health First Aid courses for individuals & organizations working with Veterans. Continue to support events and organizations that bring awareness to the high Veteran suicide rate.</p> <p>We will continue our aggressive outreach efforts to reach more organizations and Veterans to ensure that more Veterans are aware of the benefits available and our ability to assist with filing for those benefits.</p> <p>Collaborate with other state and national Veterans Service organizations to work with our department.</p>

Link to Website	https://www.albanycountyny.gov/departments/veterans-service-bureau
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Albany County Department of Veterans
Firebirds Games Estimated Attendance By Month

