

Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for November 2012

1340 State Route 9 Lake George, NY 12845 ☼ Phone: 518-761-6342 Fax: 518-761-7683

Denise A. Di Resta, Director/CVSO at direstad@warrencountyny.gov ~ web-site: <http://warrencountyny.gov>



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GOVERNOR CUOMO SIGNS BILL ALLOWING DMV TO MARK VETERAN STATUS ON DRIVER'S LICENSES AND NON-DRIVER IDS

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today signed legislation allowing the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to place a distinguishing mark on a driver's license, or non-driver ID, to indicate its holder is a veteran. Under this law, a veteran of the United States Armed Forces may request to have this veteran status mark from the DMV.

Many local businesses across the state currently provide discounts to veterans. This law will make it more simple and convenient for veterans to show and verify to a business their status as veterans on a driver's license or non-driver ID without having to carry multiple forms of identification. In order to obtain this status from the DMV, applicants will have to submit proof that they were honorably discharged from the armed forces.

"These men and women have made invaluable sacrifices for our state and nation, and now that they have returned home, government will work for them," Governor Cuomo said. "We are proud to help distinguish them as veterans."

The law takes effect in one year.

In the meantime, DMV will revise its application forms and make other accommodations to handle requests for a status mark. In addition, the review of documents supporting an honorable discharge from the armed forces will be an additional task for DMV staff during the license renewal process, and license renewals for those requesting a mark will be processed manually. Currently, routine renewals are processed automatically.

Reserve TRICARE Program Payments to Change: Beneficiaries who pay monthly premiums by check for TRICARE Reserve Select or TRICARE Retired Reserve need to switch to an electronic form of payment before the end of the year. Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, TRICARE will only accept monthly premium payments using recurring automatic payments by credit or debit card, or by a recurring electronic funds transfer from a linked bank account. This is mandatory, and failure to pay premiums by the due date will result in the termination of coverage. Read more at <http://www.tricare.mil/mediacenter/news.aspx?fid=751>.

VA eBenefits Fact Sheet: VA is reaching out to more veterans and service members to remind them about their *eBenefits* program. *eBenefits* is a joint VA/DoD web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to veterans, service members, and their families enabling them to access and manage their VA, military benefits and personal information online. It also gives lists of links to other sites that provides information about military and Veteran benefits. It is an essential way for Veterans, Service members, and their families to receive access to and service from VA and DoD. Veterans and service members wishing to use the site must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DS login. You can register for an account online using the *eBenefits Logon Account Registration Wizard*. For more information call 1-800-827-1000 or use the eBenefits website at www.ebenefits.va.gov