

Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for February 2013

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VA WARNING "Veterans Affairs Services"

The Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has requested dissemination of the following:

An organization called **Veterans Affairs Services (VAS)** is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. **This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way.**

[The organization described itself at its web page at:

<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=9h6nvxlab.0.oc6r4xlab.6mtem6fab.576&ts=S0863&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vaservices.org%2Fus%2Findex.html>]

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DOD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

Veterans Tax Exemption Deadline is March 1st, 2013

- 15% - Wartime/non-combat (to include Cold War Vets between 9/2/1945-12/26/1991)
- An additional 10% - Combat Vets
- Another additional % = 1/2 of your VA disability (maximum 50%). *Note: If your disability has increased over the last year you will need to update that information with your assessor to receive the appropriate additional exemption percentage.*

Honor A Deceased Veteran Program FOR 2013!

Does anyone want to start a committee to facilitate a **Honor A Deceased Veteran Program**? This committee would find Veterans to honor in our county, schedule, prepare and coordinate each monthly ceremony. The committee could hold their meetings here at the Human Services Bldg. Please call me if interested or for additional info.

On the horizon...

Courtney Slade, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator at the VAMC in Albany will be here this month to talk about the implementation of a Veterans Court or Veterans Court Docket in Warren County. Her goal is to discuss the needs of veterans in this particular area, better understand the role of the Veterans Healthcare (VHA) and Veterans Benefits (VBA) systems, the mentor program, and start establishing a network of sorts. We both believe that this program will directly benefit more of the Veterans on a local level in the towns/cities within the county. I will report on the development of this program and how you can get involved.