

Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for December 2016

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Holiday Gift Donation Program: Stratton Albany VAMC

Our annual Holiday gift donation program for Veterans in need is now underway. Each year we have been more successful; the first year we helped 8 Veteran families, last year, our employees and many other community groups and agencies helped over 55 Veteran families.

This donation program is part of Voluntary Services Holiday outreach for Veterans. A "needs" list of gifts that can be donated is being maintained by Mike Fitzpatrick and Noney Grier. If you wish to fulfill a Veteran family's needs or a portion of it, or have any questions, please contact Mike or Noney at:

- **Mike Fitzpatrick** @ 518-626-6919 michael.fitzpatrick3@va.gov
- **Noney Grier** @ 518-626-5507 noney.grier@va.gov

All gifts must be **brand new in original packaging and unwrapped**. Gifts can be dropped off at:

Stratton VA Medical Center
113 Holland Avenue,
Room 712 or 711 "D" wing (Voluntary Services)
Albany, NY 12208

NOTE: Warren Co Veterans' Services will assist with transporting, to the VAMC in Albany, any items you donate to this cause.

Dec 17th - National Wreaths Across America Day ~ wreaths will be placed graveside in honor of the fallen heroes in our community at the **Gerald B. Solomon ~ Saratoga National Cemetery**. **To order** : go to www.wreathsassamerica.org

Capital area Patriot Guard Riders have been a part of the volunteer effort that physically places these wreaths at the graves at Saratoga National Cemetery. In 2015, due to your efforts, the wreath count is a little over 3000. Our intent would be to one day see ALL the graves at the cemetery receive a wreath. The cemetery increases its interments by about 1000 a year so it's a tall order just to keep up with this increase.

When ordering you will see on the order forms that the appropriate cemetery designation for G. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery is "**NYGSNS**" but just as important - the Sponsoring Group ID# is "**NY0057**" for the Patriot Guard Riders.

The only thing we, the Patriot Guard Riders of New York, are asking of you and our membership is to simply spread the word about the **Wreaths Across America** program. Buy a wreath - don't buy a wreath - but spread the word. Let people know of this wonderful and meaningful program and I think we'll be surprised at the response.

Dec 24th – Christmas Eve Road March starting at the Glens Falls Civic Center at 9am. This event started in 2004 and this year will be their 13th. **LIKE** them on **FB** at SFC Coon's Christmas Eve Road March.

Warren County Veterans' Services will provide transportation for up to 11 people who want to participate but can't march. Please call the number listed above to reserve your seat.