

Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for September 2016

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Help with Health Care Billing Issues: VA has established a toll-free phone number for veterans to call if private sector health care providers have improperly billed them for care that VA is required to pay. The VFW urges any veteran being pursued by collection agencies to seek VA's assistance. VA will help you resolve adverse credit reporting and debt collection issues. Veterans who believe they have been incorrectly billed for their care should also call the billing call center to determine if VA is liable for the cost of the care. For assistance, call **1-877-881-7618** and press 1, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern Time.

VA Adds New Women's Chat Service: The VA's Women Veterans Call Center is expanding its outreach to women veterans with a new online, one-to-one chat function. The new service enables women veterans to go online and anonymously chat via real-time text messaging with trained representatives, all of whom are women and many of whom are veterans themselves. The new chat feature, which is open extended hours Monday through Saturday, provides another avenue for women veterans to ask general questions about benefits, eligibility and services specifically related to them. Learn more at:

<http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/programoverview/wvcc.asp>

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES NEARLY 50-PERCENT DECLINE IN VETERAN

HOMELESSNESS: WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) today announced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has been cut nearly in half since 2010. The data revealed a 17-percent decrease in veteran homelessness between January 2015 and January 2016—quadruple the previous year's annual decline—and a 47-percent decrease since 2010. The entire presser can be found at the following link: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2805>

The New York Air Show: The New York Air Show will take place September 3-4, 2016 at the Stewart International Airport. More information on this event can be found at: <http://airshowny.com/>

Hiring Our Heroes: Hiring Our Heroes has a couple events scheduled throughout the State this year. September 22 - Rochester, NY - Hiring Event. Additional information about these events can be found at the following link: <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/events/hiringfairs>

Fresh Connect: The New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs has launched for the third consecutive year its Fresh Connect Checks program on **June 20**. Through this program, Veterans, Servicemembers, and their immediate family members (including surviving spouses of Veterans) are eligible to receive one set of 10 Fresh Connect Checks, each one bearing the cash equivalency of \$2. These checks are redeemable with participating vendors at farmers markets across New York State for fresh produce and other fresh food products. Fresh Connect Checks are available at every New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs office, and can be distributed only by Division of Veterans' Affairs employees. Individuals interested in a Division of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Benefits Advisor attending an event with Fresh Connect Checks to distribute are strongly encouraged to contact the Division at (518) 474-6114.

Leatherstocking Honor Flight (Albany NY): There are (2) more 2016 flights available. All interested **WWII** and **Korean** Veterans, please call my office for more information. **VETS FLY FREE!!!**