A SNEAK PEAK AT WHAT’S INSIDE

HAPPY EASTER

Purple Heart Veterans 9th Annual Event

VA News
Did you know?
If you were unable to get to your VA Hospital because of an emergency: you, your family, friends, or hospital staff need to contact one of the numbers within 72 hours of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover.

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Gulf War Purple Heart Veterans

Jack and Sarah’s Family Restaurant of Lycoming Creek Road has gotten together with Webb Weekly and 173rd Airborne Brigade Foundation, to show their appreciation to Purple Heart Veterans of the Gulf War.

With the donations from both groups Jack and Sarah have purchased Patriotic Blankets and Plaques to present to these Veterans who live in the Lycoming County. So far they have presented the blanket and plaque to four Veterans and they continue to look for Purple Heart Veterans of the Gulf War.
Upcoming Events:

9th Annual Emergency Preparedness Day

Thursday, April 23, 2015  9:00am-2:00pm

This event will be held at the Federal Correctional Complex– Route 15– Allenwood and will include:

- Fire/Rescue Equipment
- Emergency Medical Service
- Local, State and Federal Law Enforcement
- Kingdom Kids, Inc.
- Emergency Management Agencies
- HAM Radio Operators
- Demonstrations by the USP Lewisburg/FCC Allenwood Special Operation Response Teams Disturbance Teams
New to the VA

*VA Eliminates Net Worth as Health Care Eligibility Factors*

Effective 2015, VA eliminated the use of net worth as a determining factor for both health care programs and copayment responsibilities. This change makes VA health care benefits more accessible to lower-income Veterans and brings VA policies inline with Secretary Robert A. McDonald’s My VA initiative which reorients VA around Veterans’ needs.

“Everything that we do and every decision we make has to be focused on the Veterans we serve,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “We are working every day to earn their trust. Changing the way we determine eligibility to make the process easier for Veterans is part of our promise to our Veterans.”

Instead of combining the sum of Veterans’ income with their assets to determine eligibility for medical care and copayment obligations, VA will now only consider a Veteran’s gross household income and deductible expenses from the previous year. Elimination of the consideration of net worth for VA health care enrollment means that certain lower-income, non-service connected Veterans will have less out-of-pocket costs. Over a 5-year period, it is estimated that 190,000 Veterans will become eligible for reduced costs of their health care services.

*Six Months Left to Apply for the Persian Gulf BONUS*

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs reminds Pennsylvania veterans that they have until August 31, 2015 to apply for a special one-time payment to honor their service and sacrifice if they served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations from August 2, 1990– August 31, 1991.

“With only six months left to apply, we are increasing our efforts to spread the word of this bonus to Pennsylvania’s veterans of Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm,” said Brig. Gen. Jerry Beck Jr., deputy adjutant general for veterans affairs. “We also encourage any veteran who was previously denied for the bonus to reapply as we are doing our due diligence by reviewing all denials prior to the sunset of the program.”

For detailed instructions on how to apply visit:

www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us
AMERICAN LEGIONS, VFW's & OTHER COUNTY VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Post 1 -
Garrett Cochran
10 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-323-9409

American Legion Post 35 -
Glenn Sharrow
78 N. Main St., Hughesville, PA 17737
Phone: 570-584-2123

American Legion Post 36 -
George Webster Pepperman
P.O. Box 211, Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Phone: 570-398-4174

American Legion Post 104 -
Eugene Grafius
1312 Broad St., Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 570-368-9000

American Legion Post 251 -
Bower Decker
185 Broad St., Montgomery, PA 17752
Phone: 570-547-2039

American Legion Post 268 -
Roland Ritter
515 Legion Rd., Muncy, PA 17756
Phone: 570-546-5210

American Legion Post 617 -
Royal P. Steinbacher
901 Market Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702
Phone: 570-327-0255

American Legion Post 999 -
West Branch Service Post
2985 Four Mile Drive, Apt. 107
Montoursville, PA 17754
Phone: 570-447-1572

Veterans of the Vietnam War – Post PA 51
P.O. Box 23, Hughesville, PA 17737
Phone: 570-547-2814

VFW Post 3428 -
Edward J. Smith Post
12 N Market St., Muncy, PA 17756
Phone: 570-546-3820

VFW Post 5859 -
Billy O. Brandt Post
201 N. Lincoln Ave., Jersey Shore, PA 17740
Phone: 570-398-2801

VFW Post 7863 -
Le Roy O. Buck Post
150 Shaffer St., South Williamsport, PA 17702
Phone: 570-323-1579

VFW POST 844 -
Howard W. Kahler Post
1260 West 3rd Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-326-2752

Forty & Eight Voiture 382
345 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-322-1670

Susquehanna Valley Chapter 47 of The Disabled American Veterans
P.O. Box 3372, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-567-4554

Williamsport Detachment 388
Marine Corp League Inc.
P.O. Box 3245, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-323-9900

Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County, Inc.
P.O. Box 3232, Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-745-3775 (Military Funerals)
Your Reps in Washington & Harrisburg

U.S. Representative Thomas Marino— 10th Congressional District
Williamsport District Office
1020 Commerce Park Drive, Suite 1A
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-322-3961
Fax: 570-322-3965
Office Hours: M-F 9-5
Website: http://marino.house.gov/

PA State Senator Gene Yaw— Senate District 23
330 Pine Street, Suite 204
Williamsport, PA
Phone: 570-322-6457
Fax: 570-327-3703
Toll-free: 1-800-443-5772
Website: http://senatorgeneyaw.com/

PA State Representative Garth D. Everett— 84th Legislative District
Penn Hills Plaza, Halls Station
21 Kristi Road, Suite 2
Muncy, PA 17756
Phone: 570-546-2084
Fax: 570-546-5220
Office Hours: M-F 9-5
Website: http://www.repeverett.com/

PA State Representative Jeff Wheeland— 83rd Legislative District
349 Pine Street Suite 1
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: 570-321-1270
Fax: 570-327-3719
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
Website: http://www.pahouse.com/mirabito/
Email: jwheeland@pahousegop.com

Not sure who your representative is? Find out at:
http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/county
list.cfm?CNTYLIST=LYCOMING
FROM THE LYCOMING COUNTY VA OFFICE:

Would you like to have a VA Benefit Seminar at a Nursing Home, Legion, VFW, or Other Organization? Have George come and speak to the Veterans and Widows about what they could be eligible for through the VA. Call our office at 570-327-2365 to set it up.

FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:

Are you rated 100% disabled by the VA? Then you may be eligible for real estate tax exemption and free hunting and fishing licenses. Call 570-327-2365 for more information.

If you or anyone you know are interested in being trained for an Honor Guard position please contact the VA office at 570-327-2365.

Important information to Know when Transitioning from TRICARE Prime to Standard.

- You can still see your same doctor.
- Costs for care will change.
- Your health care prior authorizations are still valid.

Be aware that your out-of-pocket costs for existing care will change from TRICARE Prime copayments to TRICARE Standard (Extra) cost-shares and deductibles on October 1, 2013.

If you have any other questions or concerns please contact us at 570-327-2365.
The VA Outpatient Clinic was established July 1997 on the Campus of Divine Providence Hospital in the Wenner Building, 1705 Warren Avenue, Suite 304, Williamsport, PA. Phone: 570-322-4791 Fax: 570-322-5170. Open: Monday—Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Scheduled appointments only. No Emergency Services/No walk-ins.

**Services Include:** Primary Care, Enrollment/Eligibility forms, Psychiatry, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Social Services, Counseling, Lab, Nutrition services, and Immunizations.

The VA Clinic has a social worker at the clinic on Tuesday and Thursday. Her name is Chris Veach; please call the clinic at (570) 322-4791 to schedule an appointment.

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**Vet Center**

The Vet Center is located at Suite 104, 49 East Fourth Street, Williamsport, next to the James V. Brown Library. Phone 327-5281.

All services provided by the Vet Center are FREE OF CHARGE. These include readjustment counseling and outreach services to all veterans who served in any combat zone. Services are also available for their family members. These include:

- individual and group counseling: women, spouses, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, OEF/OIF, and other combat veterans.
- group counseling
- marital and family counseling
- bereavement counseling
- substance abuse information and referral
- referral in applying for VA Benefits, job counseling and educational VA benefits
- referral for homeless vets
- military sexual trauma (male and female) counseling & referral
- outreach and community education

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The PA Career Link—Lycoming County office is located at 329 Pine Street in Williamsport and is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

**Contact:** Timothy French  
**Phone:** 570-601-5934  
**E-mail:** tifrench@state.pa.us  
**Online:** www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us
We are here to help you . . .

MSGT George W. Heiges (Ret.)
Lycoming County Director of Veterans Affairs
570-327-2365  gheiges@lyco.org
- Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Twenty-one years USAF

David A. Keene
Assistant Director of Veterans Affairs
570-327-2365  dkeene@lyco.org
- Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officer by the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Four years USMC

To make an appointment, please contact

Natalie Miller at: 570-320-2101

Office Hours
Monday through Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday–Thursday: Scheduled Appointments Only
Friday: Walk-Ins 9:00 AM- 4:30 PM
Closed weekends and major holidays.

The Lycoming County VA Office Will Be Closed:
Good Friday- Friday April 3, 2015
Memorial Day– Monday May 25, 2015

Do you have announcements or information to share???
The Lycoming County Office of Veterans Affairs invites you to submit articles and items of interest to be published in the next edition of The Lycoming Vet.

For questions or to make submissions, please contact Natalie Miller at the Veterans Affairs Office.