Our Goal This Year:

Continued success in making sure our County Veterans and their Families receive VA Benefits that they are entitled to.

- George W. Heiges Jr.
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.

DAY: Utilization Management
8:00AM-4:00PM
EXT. *7258
NIGHT: Health Benefits Advisor
4:00PM-8:00AM
EXT. *7140

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Now is the Time To Sponsor Your 2017 Hometown Hero Banner

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: Purchase Banner by April 1st & receive 15% off

SPECIAL OFFER: With the purchase of this year’s banner we are offering, for sale, a garden flag available for $40.00

Deadline for Sponsorship is September 1, 2017

All sponsorships - $210

Banners Will Be Displayed Beginning in October 2017

We now accept Paypal

Call Natalie Steppe at 570-320-2101, visit the website at LYCO.ORG/VA, or stop by The Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office for more information or to sponsor a banner.
Wreaths Across America

233 wreaths were placed at the Wildwood Cemetery on December 17, 2016 followed by a ceremony, where Congressman Tom Marino, Mayor Gabriel Campana, and Director of Veterans Affairs George Heiges, Jr spoke.
Military Share

A fresh express program for veterans and active duty soldiers!

Held at: VFW 7863 Leroy O. Buck Post
150 Shaffer Street, Duboistown, PA
570-323-1579

Military Share is a fresh express program of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and is designed to provide fresh, nutritious food for families with at least one member who is serving or who has served in the US Armed Forces. This program is for the veterans of Lycoming County.

Each family will receive fresh produce, deli and dairy products, pantry staples and meats, fish and poultry.

Please register your family below. Our distribution will be on the third Thursday of each month starting at 10:00am. Registration is REQUIRED.

Any questions regarding this program call 570-323-1579.

Name of Veteran: ____________________________
Number of Members in Household: ____________
Weekly Income: $__________
Branch of Service: __________________________
LYCOMING COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
WILLIAMSPORT, PA

Honor or memorialize a Veteran with a personalized brick permanently placed within the renovated walkways of the Lycoming County Veterans Memorial Park, located at West Fourth Street and Wahoo Drive, Williamsport, PA.

**Select a size:**

- **4" x 8"
  - Up to 3 lines of text, gray brick
  - Maximum of 18 characters per line, including letters, numbers, spaces, and symbols.
  - $50

- **12" x 12"
  - Up to 6 lines of text, gray brick
  - Maximum of 18 characters per line, including letters, numbers, spaces, and symbols.
  - $200

**Please fill out 1 order form per brick. PRINT clearly with 1 character per block.**

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Ordered by: Name: ____________________________
Address: ________________________________

Please submit your order forms, along with payment to:

Streets and Parks Department
ATTN: Veterans Memorial Park
1550 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Make checks payable to: Lycoming County Veterans Memorial Park
New Regulation Decreases Cost of Outpatient Medication Copay for Most Veterans

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulation on copayments for Veterans’ outpatient medications for non-service connected conditions. VA currently charges non-exempt Veterans either $8 or $9 for each 30-day or less supply of outpatient medication, and under current regulations, a calculation based on the medication of the Medical Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) would be used to determine the copayment amount in future years.

“Switching to a tiered system continues to keep outpatient medication costs low for Veterans,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Reducing their out-of-pocket costs encourages greater adherence to prescribed outpatient medications and reduces the risk of fragmented care that results when multiple pharmacies are used; another way that VA is providing better service to Veterans.”

This new regulation eliminates the formula used to calculate future rate increases and establishes three classes of outpatient medications identified as Tier 1, Preferred Generics; Tier 2, Non-Preferred Generics including over-the-counter medications; and Tier 3, Brand Name. Copayment amounts for each tier would be fixed and vary depending upon the class of outpatient medication in the tier.

These copayment amounts will be effective February 27, 2017:
$5 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 1 outpatient medication
$8 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 2 outpatient medication
$11 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 3 outpatient medication

These changes apply to Veterans without a service-connected condition, or Veterans with a disability rated less than 50 percent who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition, and whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law. Medication copayments do not apply to former Prisoners of War, catastrophically disabled Veterans, or those covered by other exceptions as set by law. Copayments stop each calendar year for Veterans in Priority Groups 2-8 once a $700 cap is reached.

More information on the new tiered medication copayment can be found at:
VA Announces Funding Opportunity for Community Partners Working to End Veteran Homelessness

WASHINGTON – Building on President Obama’s commitment to end Veteran homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of funding for non-profit organizations and other groups that serve Veterans through VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The SSVF program assists very low-income Veteran families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These SSVF grants are available to current grantees seeking renewals and make new funding available for eight high-need communities.

VA relies on strong, targeted collaborations in key areas at federal and local levels and engages community partners to develop innovative and forward-thinking solutions that can lead to scalable and replicable models of service. SSVF grantees currently operate in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam, working within their communities to end or prevent homelessness among Veteran families.

“One of the things you learn in the Army is you never leave a soldier behind,” said Secretary McDonald. “Unfortunately, we’ve left some people behind, and they’re our homeless Veterans. VA is committed to achieving the goal of ending Veteran homelessness, and we won’t rest until every homeless Veteran has a place to call home.”

SSVF grantees typically serve Veterans with incomes below 30 percent of the area median income. Grantees must follow the housing first approach, which centers on permanently housing homeless Veterans quickly without preconditions and providing supportive services as needed. Additional SSVF requirements are that grantees engage in outreach to find and serve Veterans in need, provide Veterans with case management, and assist them in obtaining VA and other public benefits. SSVF served nearly 150,000 Veterans and their family members in fiscal year 2016. As a result of these and other efforts, Veteran homelessness is down significantly since the launch of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in 2010. Since 2010, homelessness among Veterans had dropped by 47 percent.

For more information about VA’s homeless programs, visit www.va.gov/homeless. The Federal Register notice of funding availability may be found at: www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp. The application deadline is February 3, 2017 at 4p.m. EST.
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<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Post/Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 1</td>
<td>Garrett Cochran 10 E. 3rd St., Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
<td>Phone: 570-323-9409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 35</td>
<td>Glenn Sharrow 76 N. Main St., Hughesville, PA 17737</td>
<td>Phone: 570-584-2123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 36</td>
<td>George Webster Pepperman P.O. Box 211, Jersey Shore, PA 17740</td>
<td>Phone: 570-398-4174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 104</td>
<td>Eugene Grafius 1312 Broad St., Montoursville, PA 17754</td>
<td>Phone: 570-368-9000</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 251</td>
<td>Bower Decker 185 Broad St., Montgomery, PA 17752</td>
<td>Phone: 570-547-2039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 268</td>
<td>Roland Ritter 515 Legion Rd., Muncy, PA 17756</td>
<td>Phone: 570-546-5210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Post 617</td>
<td>Royal P. Steinbacher 901 Market Street, South Williamsport, PA 17702</td>
<td>Phone: 570-327-0255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Star Mothers of America Inc.</td>
<td>Chapter 12 P.O. Box 851 Williamsport, PA 17703</td>
<td>Phone: 570-772-4638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States Submarine Veterans Inc.</td>
<td>Williamsport Base Mailing: 160 North Broad St, Hughesville, PA 17737</td>
<td>Phone: 570-244-1351</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans of the Vietnam War – Post PA 51</td>
<td>P.O. Box 23, Hughesville, PA 17737</td>
<td>Phone: 570-547-2814</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFW Post 3428</td>
<td>Edward J. Smith Post 12 N Market St., Muncy, PA 17756</td>
<td>Phone: 570-546-3820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VFW Post 5859</td>
<td>Billy O. Brandt Post 201 N. Lincoln Ave., Jersey Shore, PA 17740</td>
<td>Phone: 570-8656216</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFW Post 7863</td>
<td>Le Roy O. Buck Post 150 Shaffer St., South Williamsport, PA 17702</td>
<td>Phone: 570-323-1579</td>
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<tr>
<td>VFW POST 844</td>
<td>Howard W. Kahler Post 1260 West 3rd Street, Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
<td>Phone: 570-326-2752</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forty &amp; Eight Voiture 382</td>
<td>345 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
<td>Phone: 570-322-1670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susquehanna Valley Chapter 47 of The Disabled American Veterans</td>
<td>P.O. Box 3372, Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
<td>Phone: 570-567-4554</td>
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<tr>
<td>Williamsport Detachment 388</td>
<td>Marine Corp League Inc. P. O. Box 3245, Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
<td>Phone: 570-323-9900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County, Inc.</td>
<td>P. O. Box 3232, Williamsport, PA 17701</td>
<td>Phone: 570-745-3775 (Military Funerals)</td>
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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/](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/](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
Website: [http://www.repeverett.com/](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 8:30-4:30
Website: [www.repwheeland.com](http://www.repwheeland.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](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.

Home Loans? Contact Bob Brown, Sr. Loan Officer at Allentown Mortgage Corp. VA Loan Specialist/Residential Financing.
Phone: 610-883-7601 or 484-494-6593
Email: bobbrown@worldlynx.net
Web: www.allentownmortgage.com
*Licensed by the PA Dept. of Banking*

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.
VA Outpatient Clinic

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.

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

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
(No Comp or Pension Claims, Info ONLY)
Closed weekends and major holidays.

The Lycoming County VA
Office Will Be Closed:

New Year’s Day– Monday January 2, 2017
Martin Luther King Jr. Day– Monday January 16, 2017
President’s Day– Monday February 20, 2017

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.