

# The Lycoming Vet

Volume 14, Issue 1

January 2022



*Happy New  
Year!  
2022*



**Did you know?**

If you were unable to get to your VA Hospital because of an emergency: please contact the VA within **72 hours** of your emergency, so you are better aware of what services VA may or may not cover.

Call: 844-724-7842

**VAMC Wilkes-Barre Toll Free: 1-877-928-2621**

Commercial : 570-824-3521

Utilization Management - EXT. 27258

24 hr/7 days a week

Health Benefits Advisor, Administrative Officer On Duty - EXT. 27140

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# City native warned of Pearl Harbor attack

## Joseph L. Lockard

This story originally appeared in the Nov. 11, 2012 edition of the Williamsport Sun-Gazette

**J**oseph L. Lockard, 90, the city native who tried to warn of a large formation heading toward Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, passed away on Nov. 2, 2012.

Lockard was one of two U.S. Army privates operating a radar signal base on Opana Point on the island of Oahu that day. Shortly after 7 a.m., a huge radar echo appeared on the equipment closing in on the Pearl Harbor naval base.

Lockard's call to nearby Fort Shafter warning of possible approaching enemy aircraft was dismissed by a higher-ranking officer, saying the formation was probably just American B-17s or naval patrol aircraft.

The planes turned out to be the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that killed more than 2,400 people and led the United States into World War II.

"There was this thing on the screen. It was the largest blip I'd ever seen!" Lockard said during a 1988 interview with writer Blaine Taylor for an article published in "WWII Collector's

(See CITY, Page A5)

SUN-GAZETTE ARCHIVES

Joseph L. Lockard, pictured here, was a radarman during WWII. He noticed a huge blip early in the morning Dec. 7, 1941, but his warnings went unanswered.





# *City native warned of attack*

(From Page A1)

Edition of the Pearl Harbor Magazine's Official 50th Anniversary Magazine."

"At first, we thought something was wrong with the equipment, so we ran it through a series of tests.

I checked out the receiver and transmitter to see if there was anything mechanically wrong.

There was nothing electronically wrong that we could see, so we started plotting the blip. We did that for a while, then

decided we'd call to see if there was anybody down there on the phone."

Jess Hackenberg, of Montoursville, a Vietnam-era U.S. Army Aviation veteran and volunteer with the Lycoming County Veterans Council, said he met Lockard a few times when he spoke locally to groups.

"He was, I guess you could say, our most famous guy," Hackenberg said. "I think Joe Lockard is probably going to be remembered as the guy who rang the fire bell and nobody showed

## IN THEIR WORDS

***"I think [Lockard] deserves a place in history, and he got it."***

**—Jess Hackenberg,  
Vietnam War veteran**

up. I think he deserves a place in history, and he got it."

Lockard grew up in the Newberry area of the city in the 900 block of Race Street. He retired in 1986 from AMP in Harrisburg, a company that produced electrical connectors. He was awarded 40 patents for his work.

## December 7, 1941

## December 7, 2021

# 80th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor



Williamsport Sun-Gazette  
December 8, 2021



# Gold Star Memorial



KAREN VIBERT-KENNEDY/Sun-Gazette

Bailey Granite, of Kentucky, assembles a granite bench during the installation of the Central Pennsylvania Gold Star Families Monument at the Lycoming County Veterans Memorial Park in Williamsport on Tuesday. A Gold Star Family is the immediate family of a fallen service member. The memorial was a team idea from local individuals who wanted to bring the memorial to Lycoming County and has been in the works since September. The memorial became a reality through the generosity of local people and organizations as well as the hard work of the committee members. The monument will receive its finishing touches and be dedicated next year.

# Four Chaplains Day

## Four Chaplains Day: (February 3, 1943)

February 3rd commemorates the day that four Army chaplains gave their lives to save others who were serving on the *U.S.A.T. Dorchester*, which had been torpedoed by a German submarine.

Through the ensuing chaos Army chaplains Lt. George L. Fox, Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Lt. John P. Washington, and Lt. Clark V. Poling, were witnessed praying over the dying, helping the injured, and speaking courage to those around them. They distributed life jackets until no more were found, then each took off their own life jacket and gave it to the next man in line.

Survivors testified that as they watched the ship going down from nearby lifeboats, the four chaplains linked arms, braced against the slanting deck, their voices heard praying until the last.

## In Memoriam

**Lt. George L. Fox**  
**Methodist**

**Lt. Clark V. Poling**  
**Dutch Reformed**

**Lt. Alexander D. Goode**  
**Jewish**

**Lt. John P. Washington**  
**Roman Catholic**

On February 15, 2001, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains moved to  
1201 Constitution Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19112  
the site of a World War II (Built in 1942) Navy Chapel.

**[fourchaplains.org](http://fourchaplains.org)**

# **MILITARY DATES OF REMEMBRANCE**

## **January**

1 January: New Year's Day

Third Monday in January: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

## **February**

3 February: Four Chaplains Day

14 February: Valentine's Day

Third Monday in February:

President's Day / Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

## **March**

3 March: Navy Reserve Birthday

5 March: Seabee Birthday

13 March: National K9 Veterans Day

17 March: St Patrick's Day

25 March: National Medal of Honor Day

29 March: Vietnam Veterans Day

# **Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc.**

## **Hometown Heroes**

### **2022 Streetlight Banner Program**

Drop off Location :  
Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office  
330 Pine Street, Suite 401  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570-327-2365

**The Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. (LCHH) program serves as a tribute to recognize service men and women from the Lycoming County area who have served or are serving our country in a branch of the military.**

Reserve your space starting on **January 1, 2022**. Purchase deadline will be **September 2, 2022**.

Cost is \$210.00

Each individual banner will include the veteran's name, picture, branch of service, era of service and sponsor's name.

The program is non-political and non-partisan.

**Early Bird Special: Purchase Banner by April 1, 2022, and receive 15% off.**

**Special Offer- With the purchase of this year's banner we are offering a garden flag for \$40.00.**

**The garden flag will have the Veteran's name, branch of service, era of service and picture.**

**This flag will fit on a normal garden flag holder.**

#### **The Hometown Heroes Banners:**

- ★ Will be on display for **one** year
- ★ Will be located on street lights in Williamsport
- ★ Will be 18" wide and 36" high
- ★ Will include the sponsor's name prominently displayed at the bottom of the banner



**Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc.  
Hometown Heroes, 2022 Streetlight Banner Program**

## **Ways to Sponsor a Banner**

Family members and loved ones of veterans may purchase a banner themselves or obtain sponsorship by a local business. LCHH is not responsible for finding sponsorship for banners purchased by individuals, family members or loved ones.

Should a family wish to purchase a banner; the family name will appear on the banner in place of the business sponsorship name.

Businesses may sponsor a banner for a particular veteran by contacting Lycoming County Home Town Heroes Inc.

Cost of sponsorship for families, individuals and civic organizations and businesses is **\$210.00**.

**Please make checks Payable to LCHH (Lycoming County Hometown Heroes).**

### **Sponsorships Benefits include:**

Sponsor's name listed on each banner purchased

Participation in the Lycoming County Hometown Hero Ceremony

Listing in the Lycoming County Hometown Hero Ceremony Program Booklet

***Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. is a not for profit, organization whose mission is to recognize the contributions of our veterans who served, promote role models for our youth, and provide assistance to veterans and their families in need.***

**All sponsorships are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.**

**Not looking to Sponsor a Banner, Donations also accepted all year round.**

**Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc. will make a good faith effort to hang banners on light poles in areas desirable to your business; however, final placement is at LCHH's discretion.**

**The banners will be provided to the sponsor of the banner at the end of the display year.**

\*If the specific veteran is being honored, the sponsor must complete the sponsorship form. This helps to ensure that LCHH has the most accurate and correct information. Sponsorship forms CANNOT be completed by LCHH, or over the telephone. **\*Forms MUST be fully completed to be accepted for sponsorship.**

\*Please include the Veteran/ Family of Veteran's personal information so we are able to send the LCHH Ceremony information directly to them.

## **2022 Hometown Heroes Banner Program**

**Hometown Hero Information (Please print) Submit an ORIGINAL PHOTO- it will be returned**

Name of Veteran in Photo *(as it should appear on banner)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Veteran? ALIVE \_\_\_\_\_ DECEASED \_\_\_\_\_ KIA \_\_\_\_\_ POW/MIA \_\_\_\_\_

Era of Service (WWI, WWII, etc.)\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Military: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a Renewal? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, are you using the same Picture? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name *(as it should appear on banner)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person submitting photo: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran/ Family of Veteran's Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PHOTO RELEASE**

I hereby grant Lycoming County Hometown Heroes, Inc., permission to use the attached photo (which includes a likeness of me or of my relative) in the 2022 Williamsport Hometown Heroes Program without payment or other consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date) (Printed name)

### **SPECIAL OFFER- \$40.00 Garden Flag**

\_\_\_\_ Yes I want to include a garden flag for \$40.00 along with my Large Banner Purchase

\_\_\_\_ No I do not wish to purchase a garden flag

### **BUSINESS SPONSOR (Please fill in this section also – please print)**

Sponsor Name *(as it should appear on banner)*: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will make a contribution to the Hometown Hero Celebration

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will sponsor a Banner

### **PLEASE MARK ONE - If sponsoring a banner but do not have a veteran**

\_\_\_\_ The Business would like the banner \_\_\_\_\_ The veteran/ family of veteran may have the banner

### **\*\*Era of Service - Official Department of Defense Dates \*\***

Global War on Terror (GWOT): September 11, 2001 - to present

Cold War: September 2, 1945 – December 26, 1991

Persian Gulf: August 2, 1990 - August 31, 1991

Korean Conflict Era: June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955

Vietnam Era: February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

WW I Era: April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918

WW II Era: December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946

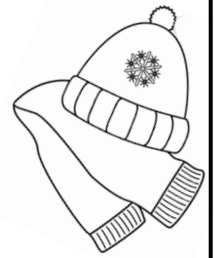
**\*\*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT US AT 570-327-2365\*\***

# Warm Up Shop

In need of a warm jacket or other necessity?

Come on in for a visit,  
no appointment needed!

Items available vary!!



## Donations Welcomed!!!

We are looking for gently used or new jackets, scarves, gloves or other necessities.

Other items may include:

- Blankets
- Walkers
- Canes
- Clothes for interviews
- Hats
- Etc.

Thank you!!!!



BEETLE BAILEY





# Gulf War Veterans' Medically Unexplained Illnesses

A prominent condition affecting Gulf War Veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems.

VA refers to these illnesses as "chronic multisymptom illness" and "undiagnosed illnesses." We prefer not to use the term "Gulf War Syndrome" when referring to medically unexplained symptoms reported by Gulf War Veterans. Why? Because symptoms vary widely.

## Military service connection

Gulf War Veterans who meet the criteria below do not need to prove a connection between their military service and illnesses in order to receive VA disability compensation.

VA presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms existing for 6 months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These "presumptive" illnesses must have appeared during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations **or by December 31, 2026, and be at least 10 percent disabling. These illnesses include:**

### **Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS),**

a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.

### **Fibromyalgia,**

a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.

### **Functional gastrointestinal disorders,**

a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.

### **Undiagnosed illnesses**

with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

## VA benefits

Gulf War Veterans may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including a Gulf War Registry health exam, the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, health care, and disability compensation for diseases related to military service. Their dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits.

### **Learn more about benefits related to Gulf War service.**

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp>

## Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2019

# Law Extends Benefits for Eligible Veterans

## Public Law 116-23, (Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2019)

**Public Law 116-23**, (Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act 2019) was signed into law on June 25, 2019 and takes effect January 1, 2020. The law extends a presumption of herbicide exposure to Blue Water Navy Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam and the offshore waters. Blue Water Navy Survivors, and certain dependents may be entitled to benefits if the Veteran was exposed.

Under the law, certain Veterans, who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam and Cambodia, or who had service in the Korean Demilitarized zone (DMZ), may be entitled to disability compensation for conditions that are related to herbicide exposure. The law also provides benefits for children born with spina bifida whose parent was a Veteran with verified herbicide exposure in Thailand.

To be entitled to VA benefits, these Veterans must have served between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, and have one or more of the conditions that are listed in section 3.309(e) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations.

### Conditions related to presumed herbicide exposure<sup>1</sup>:

- » Amyloid light-chain (AL) amyloidosis
- » Chloracne, or other acneform disease consistent with chloracne
- » Chronic B-cell leukemias
- » Diabetes mellitus, Type 2
- » Ischemic heart disease
- » Hodgkin's lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease
- » Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- » Multiple myeloma
- » Parkinson's disease
- » Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset
- » Porphyria cutanea tarda
- » Prostate cancer
- » Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- » Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).

<sup>1</sup> A Veteran who has experienced any of the conditions on this list may be eligible for presumptive service connection under 38 CFR 3.309(e). A Veteran may be entitled to service connection on a direct basis under 38 CFR 3.303, if herbicide exposure is established and scientific or medical evidence shows that the claimed condition is medically associated with the exposure.

### How do I file a claim for disability compensation or survivor benefits?

- » Apply using the guidance at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), [www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation](http://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation) **OR**
- » For initial compensation claims, submit a VA Form 21-526EZ; For initial DIC claims, submit a VA Form 21P-534EZ; For previously denied claims, submit a VA Form 20-0995 **OR**
- » VA-accredited Veterans Service Organization representative, attorney, or claims agent **OR**
- » Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/offices.asp>

### What should be included when filing a claim?

- » State on your application that you are filing for one of the conditions related to presumed herbicide exposure such as Agent Orange.
- » Include any evidence you have of service in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the required timeframe. Include the name(s) of the vessel(s) and the date(s) you served within 12 nautical miles of the Republic of Vietnam, if you have that information.
- » Provide medical evidence showing a diagnosis of a current condition related to exposure to herbicide such as Agent Orange or tell us where you are being treated.
- » For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our Disability Compensation web page at [www.va.gov/disability/](http://www.va.gov/disability/)



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# 10 Things to Know:

## Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposure

Exposure to airborne hazards is a serious concern for many Veterans and active-duty service members. You can help VA provide better care and service to all Veterans - even if you don't think you were exposed. Here's what you need to know.

### 1 What are airborne hazards?

"Airborne hazard" refers to any sort of potentially toxic substance that you are exposed to through the air you breathe. While on active duty, military service members may have been exposed to a variety of airborne hazards including:

- Smoke and fumes from open burn pits
- Sand, dust, and particulate matter
- General air pollution common in certain countries
- Fuel, aircraft exhaust, and other mechanical fumes
- Smoke from oil well fires

### 2 What are burn pits?

The Department of Defense defines an open burn pit as an area of land used for the open-air combustion of trash and other solid waste products. They were commonly used by the U.S. military in Southwest Asia, Afghanistan, and other areas.

Waste products commonly disposed of in open burn pits include chemicals, paint, medical and human waste, metal/aluminum cans, munitions, unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics, rubber, wood, and food waste.

### 3 Can exposure to these hazards affect my health?

Whether you experience health issues related to airborne hazard exposures depends on a variety of factors. Many health conditions related to these hazards are temporary and should disappear after the exposure ends. Other longer-term health issues may be caused by a combination of hazardous exposures, injuries, or illnesses you may have experienced during your military service. Factors that may indicate greater or lesser risk for short or long-term health effects include:

- Types of waste burned
- Proximity, amount of time, and frequency of exposure
- Wind direction and other weather-related factors
- Presence of other airborne or environmental hazards in the area

### 4 Can I get health care from VA for issues related to my exposures?

Yes, we encourage all Veterans concerned about their military exposures talk to their health care provider and apply for VA health care. Once enrolled, your VA care team will work with you to understand your health concerns and connect you with the care and services you need to get – and stay – healthy.



## 5 What is the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry?

VA established the registry in 2014 to put data to work for Veterans and help us better understand the potential health effects of exposure to airborne hazards during military service. By joining the registry, you can provide information that supports ongoing research and helps VA provide better care to all Veterans. Joining the registry can also help you identify health concerns, discuss them with your health care providers, and get follow-up care.

## 6 Who is eligible for the registry?

If you were deployed to the Southwest Asia theater of operations any time after August 2, 1990 or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001, you are eligible to participate. **You can join even if:**

- You don't think you were exposed to specific airborne hazards.
- You are not experiencing symptoms or illnesses you think are related to your exposures.
- You have not filed a VA claim for compensation and benefits or applied for VA health care.
- You are still an active duty service member, reservist, or have returned to active service.

If you are not eligible for the registry but are concerned about your exposures, you can still apply for VA health care and file a claim for compensation and benefits.

## 7 How do I join?

To join the registry, sign into the secure portal using your Premium DS Logon Level 2 credentials to check your eligibility and complete the online questionnaire. If you already have a VA eBenefits or MyHealtheVet premium account, you can use the same credentials for the registry.

The questionnaire asks questions about your deployments, health history, lifestyle, and other factors. It usually takes about an hour to complete depending on your number of deployments.

Visit [www.publichealth.va.gov/airbornehazards](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/airbornehazards) to learn more about how to get started.

## 8 What happens after I complete the questionnaire?

When you're done with the questionnaire, print or save your responses for your records. We also encourage you to schedule the free, optional environmental health evaluation. Notes from your evaluation will be used to support research into the health effects of airborne hazards. It can also help you learn more about your exposures and discuss them with your health care provider.

## 9 Can participating in the registry affect my VA claim?

Participating in the registry cannot negatively impact your ability to receive compensation, benefits, or health care from VA. You can submit your responses or notes from the health evaluation separately if you choose.

## 10 How can I learn more?

Visit [www.publichealth.va.gov/airbornehazards](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/airbornehazards) to learn more about airborne hazards and the registry. You can also contact the environmental health coordinator at your VA for more information.

We encourage all Veterans concerned about their military exposures to talk to their health care provider, apply for VA health care, and file a claim for compensation and benefits.



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to learn more.

Apply for VA Health Care: [www.VA.gov/health-care](http://www.VA.gov/health-care) or call 877-222-8387

File a Claim: [www.VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim](http://www.VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim)

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit

### Quick Reference Sheet

**VA****U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

VA established the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit registry in 2014 to help us better understand the potential health effects of exposure to airborne hazards during military service. By joining the registry, you can provide information that supports ongoing research and helps VA provide better care to all Veterans.

**The registry includes two parts:** an online questionnaire and a free, optional environmental health evaluation. Keep this quick reference sheet handy to help you complete the questionnaire and schedule your exam.

### Before you get started:

- **Plan to spend up to an hour completing the questionnaire.** Depending on how many deployments you have, it could take more or less time to complete the questions.
- **Please complete the questionnaire for all your deployments, even if they were to the same countries or regions.** Even though some questions may seem repetitive, providing information specific to each deployment will give us a more complete understanding of your exposures and experiences.

### How to Complete the Questionnaire:

1. **Visit the secure registry portal.**

You can access the portal at:

<https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/>

2. **Use your Premium DS Logon Level 2 account to log in and check your eligibility.**

If you already have a VA eBenefits or MyHealthVet premium account, you can use the same credentials for the registry.

### Registry Eligibility

You are eligible to participate in the registry if you served in Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield (ODS), New Dawn (OND), or Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF). This includes deployments to Southwest Asia after August 2, 1990 or Afghanistan or Djibouti on or after September 11, 2001.

**We encourage you to join even if:**

- You don't think you were exposed to specific airborne hazards.
- You are not experiencing symptoms or illnesses you think are related to your exposures.
- You have not filed a VA claim for compensation and benefits or applied for VA health care.
- You are still an active-duty service member or have returned to active service.

**Learn more about eligibility at:**

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/airbornehazards>

If you need a DS Logon account, follow the directions on the registry portal page.

3. **Ensure your personal contact information is complete.**

VA may use the email or mailing address you provide to share additional information about airborne hazard exposure or contact you to participate in related research studies.

## **ID Card Office Online**

Are you active duty or retired from active duty or a dependent of an active duty/active duty retiree,  
or do you have a 100% total and permanent VA disability rating?

Do you need an ID card?

Go to : <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/>

**This is for the RAPIDS ID Card Office Online (IDCO)** home page.

It is the access point to all IDCO functions.

From this page you can access the ID Card Office Locator, CAC Maintenance, Family/Sponsor update, and My Profile functionality.

The IDCO home page is publicly accessible.

Accessing certain functions from the Home page will require CAC or DS Logon.

Contact them for additional assistance or to report problems, please call:

Toll Free: 800-538-9522 Commercial: 505-335-9980

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## **Community Care**

<https://www.va.gov><https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/index.asp/>

## **Overview**

VA provides health care for Veterans from providers in your local community outside of VA. Veterans may be eligible to receive care from a community provider when VA cannot provide the care needed.

This care is provided on behalf of and paid for by VA.

Community care is available to Veterans based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements, and in consideration of a Veteran's specific needs and circumstances.



# **How to Avoid Scams**

## **What You Can Do to Avoid a Scam**

**Block unwanted calls and text messages.** Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.

**Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.** Legitimate organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

**Resist the pressure to act immediately.** Legitimate businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

**Know how scammers tell you to pay.** Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

**Stop and talk to someone you trust.** Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

## **Report Scams to the FTC**

If you were scammed or think you saw a scam, report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

## **Protect Your Information**

**Never give out your personal information over the phone or the internet or to someone walking up to your home!**

### **Personal information includes:**

DD214

Bank Statements

Social Security Statements

Credit Card Numbers

**Instead if you have questions about your benefits, please reach out to your local Social Security Office or Veterans Affairs Office!**



## Military Service and Social Security

Earnings for active duty military service or active duty training have been covered under Social Security since 1957.

Social Security has covered inactive duty service in the armed forces reserves (such as weekend drills) since 1988.

If you served in the military before 1957, you didn't pay Social Security taxes, but we gave you special credit for some of your service.

You can get both Social Security benefits and military retirement. Generally, there is no reduction of Social Security benefits because of your military retirement benefits. You'll get your Social Security benefit based on your earnings and age you choose to start receiving benefits.

### Social Security and Medicare taxes

While you're in military service, you pay Social Security taxes, just as civilian employees do. You currently pay a 6.2 percent Social Security tax on up to \$142,800 of your earnings. The Medicare tax rate is 1.45 percent on all wages, and high-income earners pay an additional 0.9 percent on earnings above certain amounts.

### How your work qualifies you for Social Security

To qualify for benefits, you must earn credits by working and paying Social Security taxes. The number of credits you need to qualify depends on your age and the type of benefit for which you're eligible. In 2021, you receive one credit for each \$1,470 of earnings, up to the maximum of four credits per year. The minimum amount of earnings needed to get credit for your work goes up each year. The maximum number of credits you can earn in one year is four. No one needs more than 10 years of work, or 40 credits.

### Extra earnings

Your Social Security benefit depends on your earnings, averaged over your working lifetime. Generally, the higher your earnings, the higher your Social Security benefit. Under certain circumstances, special earnings

can be credited to your military pay record for Social Security purposes. The extra earnings are for periods of active duty or active duty for training. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

If you served in the military after 1956, you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the armed forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for periods of active duty from 1957 through 2001 can also be credited to your Social Security earnings record.

- **From 1957 through 1967**, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- **From 1968 through 2001**, you don't need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- **After 2001**, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

The information that follows explains how you can get credit for special extra earnings and applies only to active duty military service earnings from **1957 through 2001**.

**From 1957 through 1977**, you're credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

**From 1978 through 2001**, for every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you're credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.

**If you served in the military from 1940 through 1956** you didn't pay Social Security taxes, but we gave you special credit for some of your service.

**NOTE:** In all cases, the additional earnings are credited to the earnings that we average over your working lifetime, not directly to your monthly benefit amount.

## Your benefits

In addition to retirement benefits, Social Security pays survivors benefits to your family when you die. You also can get Social Security benefits for you and your family if you become disabled. For more information about these benefits, read *Understanding the Benefits* (Publication No. 05-10024).

If you became disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, visit [www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors) to find out how you can receive expedited processing of your disability claim.

When you apply for Social Security benefits, you'll be asked for proof of your military service (DD Form 214) or information about your Reserve or National Guard service.

## When you are eligible for Medicare

If you have health care insurance from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or under the TRICARE or CHAMPVA program, your health benefits may change or end when you become eligible for Medicare. You should contact the VA, the Department of Defense or a military health benefits advisor for more information.

## You can work and get retirement benefits

You can retire as early as age 62. But if you do, your Social Security benefits will be permanently reduced. If you decide to apply for benefits before your full retirement age, you can work and still get some Social Security benefits. There are limits on how much you can earn without losing some or all of your retirement benefits. These limits can change each year. When you apply for benefits, we'll tell you what the limits are at that time and whether work will affect your monthly benefits.

When you reach your full retirement age, we will not withhold your Social Security benefits, no matter how much you earn. If some of your retirement benefits were withheld due to your earnings, we will recalculate your benefit amount to give you credit for the months we reduced or withheld benefits due to your excess earnings.

The full retirement age is 66 for people born from 1943 through 1954, and it will gradually increase to age 67 for those born in 1960 and later. To help you decide the best time to retire, read *Your Retirement Checklist* (Publication No. 05-10377).

## Contacting Social Security

The most convenient way to do business with us from anywhere, on any device, is to visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). There are several things you can do online: apply for benefits; get useful information; find publications; and get answers to frequently asked questions.

When you open a personal *my* Social Security account, you have more capabilities. You can review your *Social Security Statement*, verify your earnings, and get estimates of future benefits. You can also print a benefit verification letter, change your direct deposit information, request a replacement Medicare card, get a replacement SSA-1099/1042S, and request a replacement Social Security card (if you have no changes and your state participates).

If you don't have access to the internet, we offer many automated services by telephone, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213** or at our TTY number, **1-800-325-0778**, if you're deaf or hard of hearing.

A member of our staff can answer your call from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. We ask for your patience during busy periods since you may experience a high rate of busy signals and longer hold times to speak to us. We look forward to serving you.



Securing today  
and tomorrow

Social Security Administration  
Publication No. 05-10017  
January 2021 (Recycle prior editions)  
Military Service and Social Security  
Produced and published at U.S. taxpayer expense





**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**  
Veterans Benefits Administration

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## Presumptive Disability Benefits

### What is “Presumptive” Service Connection?

VA presumes that certain disabilities were caused by military service. This is because of the unique circumstances of a specific Veteran’s military service. If a presumed condition is diagnosed in a Veteran within a certain group, they can be awarded disability compensation.

### What are “Presumptive” Conditions?

If you are diagnosed with a chronic disease within one year of active duty release, you should apply for disability compensation. Examples of chronic disease include: arthritis, diabetes or hypertension.

Or, if you served continuously for at least 90 days and are diagnosed with **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)** after discharge, you can establish service connection for the disease.

Veterans in the following groups may qualify for “presumptive” disability benefits:

- **Former prisoners of war** who:
  - Have a condition that is at least 10 percent disabling
  - Depending on length of imprisonment, specific conditions are presumed
    - Imprisoned for any length of time:
      - Psychosis
      - Any of the anxiety states
      - Dysthymic disorder (or depressive neurosis)
      - Organic residuals of frostbite
      - Post- traumatic osteoarthritis
      - Heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease
      - Stroke and the residual effects
      - Osteoporosis, when the Veteran has posttraumatic stress disorder

- Imprisoned for at least 30 days:
  - Beriberi (including beriberi heart disease)
  - Chronic dysentery
  - Helminthiasis
  - Malnutrition (including optic atrophy)
  - Pellagra
  - Other nutritional deficiencies
  - Irritable bowel syndrome
  - Peptic ulcer disease
  - Peripheral neuropathy
  - Cirrhosis of the liver
  - Avitaminosis
  - Osteoporosis
- **Vietnam Veterans** who were:
  - Exposed to Agent Orange
  - Served in the Republic of Vietnam or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
  - Specific presumed conditions are:
    - AL amyloidosis
    - B-cell leukemia
    - Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
    - Multiple myeloma
    - Type 2 diabetes
    - Hodgkin's disease
    - Ischemic heart disease (including but not limited to, coronary artery disease and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease)
    - Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
    - Parkinson's disease
    - Parkinsonism
    - Prostate cancer
    - Respiratory cancers
    - Soft-tissue sarcoma (not including osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma)
    - Bladder cancer
    - Hypothyroidism

- The following conditions, if they become greater than 10 percent debilitating within a year of exposure to an herbicide agent:
  - Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy
  - Chloracne or other similar acneform disease
  - Porphyria cutanea tarda
- **Atomic Veterans exposed to ionizing radiation** and who experienced one of the following:
  - Participated in atmospheric nuclear testing
  - Occupied or were prisoners of war in Hiroshima or Nagasaki
  - Served before Feb. 1, 1992, at a diffusion plant in Paducah, Kentucky, Portsmouth, Ohio or Oak Ridge, Tennessee
  - Served before Jan. 1, 1974, at Amchitka Island, Alaska Specific presumed conditions are:
    - All forms of leukemia, except chronic lymphocytic leukemia
    - Cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract, brain, bone, lung, colon or ovary
    - Bronchioloalveolar carcinoma
    - Multiple myeloma
    - Lymphomas, other than Hodgkin's disease
    - Primary liver cancer, except if there are indications of cirrhosis or hepatitis B
- **Gulf War Veterans** who:
  - Served in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations
  - Have a condition that is at least 10 percent disabling by Dec. 31, 2026
  - Specific presumed conditions are:
    - Medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses that exist for six months or more, such as:
      - Chronic fatigue syndrome
      - Fibromyalgia
      - Irritable bowel syndrome
    - Any diagnosed or undiagnosed illness that warrants a presumption of service connection, as determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

- Signs or symptoms of an undiagnosed illness include:
  - Fatigue
  - Skin symptoms
  - Headaches
  - Muscle pain
  - Joint pain
  - Neurological or neuropsychological symptoms
  - Symptoms involving the upper or lower respiratory system
  - Sleep disturbance
  - Gastrointestinal symptoms
  - Cardiovascular symptoms
  - Weight loss
  - Menstrual disorders
- **Gulf War Veterans** who:
  - Served in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001
    - Manifest one of the following infectious diseases to a degree of 10 percent or more within 1 year of separation:
      - Brucellosis
      - Campylobacter jejuni
      - Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)
      - Nontyphoid Salmonella
      - Shigella
      - West Nile virus
      - Malaria (or when accepted treatises indicate the incubation period began during a qualifying period of service)
    - Manifest to a degree of 10 percent or more at any time after separation:
      - Mycobacterium tuberculosis
      - Visceral leishmaniasis
- **Gulf War Deployed Veterans** who:
  - Served any length of time in the Southwest Theater of Operations during the Persian Gulf War, or
  - Served any length of time in Afghanistan, Syria, Djibouti or Uzbekistan on or after September 19, 2001 and
  - Manifests one of the following to any degree within 10 years from the date of separation from military service:
    - Asthma
    - Rhinitis
    - Sinusitis, to include rhinosinusitis

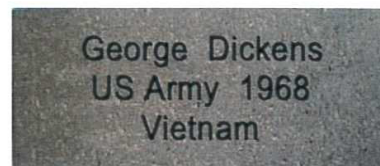


## LYCOMING COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK WILLIAMSPORT, PA

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  
\$50 Maximum of 18 characters per line, including letters, numbers, spaces, and symbols.



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



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


Ordered by: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit your order forms, along  
with payment to:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Lycoming County Veterans Memorial Park**

## **VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK OF PICTURE ROCKS**

A 501 © (3) Non-Profit Corporation

### PERSONALIZED VETERAN BRICK ORDER FORM

Honor or memorialize a Veteran with a personalized brick permanently placed within the walkways of the newly constructed Veterans Memorial Park of Picture Rocks. ALL Veterans, not just those from Picture Rocks, are eligible to have a brick.

The park is located on South Main Street (US Route 220) in Pictures Rocks, Pennsylvania.

Bricks may be engraved with three (3) lines of text. Each line can accommodated a maximum of eighteen (18) characters (which includes letters, punctuation and spaces.)

The \$50.00 price includes the cost of one brick with three lines of engraving and a tax deductible donation of \$32.00.

The following contact information is requested of the person placing the brick order:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the blocks provided below, please PRINT clearly the information you wish to have engraved on the brick.


**Please submit your completed brick order form, along with a check for the amount of \$50.00, to the following address:**

Veterans Memorial Park of Picture Rocks, Inc  
P.O. Box 410  
Picture Rocks, Pa 17762-0410

Checks are payable to the Veterans Memorial Park of Picture Rocks, Inc.

# 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

## **Veterans of All Wars**

P.O. Box 23, Hughesville, PA 17737  
Phone: 570-584-5428

## **American Legion Post 35-**

Glenn Sharrow  
76 N. Main St., Hughesville, PA 17737  
Phone: 570-584-2123

## **VFW Post 3428-**

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

## **American Legion Post 36 -**

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

## **VFW Post 5859-**

Billy O. Brandt Post  
201 N. Lincoln Ave., Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
Phone: 570-8656216

## **American Legion Post 104 -**

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

## **VFW Post 7863-**

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

## **American Legion Post 251 -**

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

## **Forty & Eight Voiture 382**

345 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570-322-1670

## **American Legion Post 268 -**

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

## **Susquehanna Valley Chapter 47 of The Disabled American Veterans**

P.O. Box 3372, Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570-971-5889

## **American Legion Post 617 -**

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

## **Williamsport Detachment 388 Marine Corp League Inc.**

P. O. Box 3245, Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570-323-9900

## **Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. -**

Chapter 12  
P.O. Box 851  
Williamsport, PA 17703  
Phone: 570-772-4638

## **Korean War Veterans of Lycoming County, Inc.**

P. O. Box 3232, Williamsport, PA 17701  
Phone: 570-745-3775 (Military Funerals)

## **United States Submarine Veterans Inc.-** Williamsport Base

Mailing: 160 North Broad St, Hughesville, PA 17737  
Meeting Location: Zafar Gorotto Club  
381 E. 2nd St, S. Williamsport, PA 17702  
Phone: 570-244-1351

**Lycoming County Veterans Council Inc.**  
C/O 2310 Newberry Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-220-8156

## Events:

### Veterans Breakfasts

Grim's Diner  
5849 Warrensville Road  
8:00 a.m.  
2nd Monday of every month  
\$8.00

Hillside Assisted Living Community  
2725 Four Mile Drive  
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.  
1st Tuesday of every month  
Free

### Valentines for Vets

This year the National Salute to Veteran Patients (Valentines for Vets) week is February 13-19 2022.

The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Program is to pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans, increase community awareness of the role of the VA Medical Center and to encourage citizens to correspond with hospitalized Veterans and to let them know they are not forgotten!

This is a great project for classrooms, churches or anyone who would like to show our hospitalized Veterans they are NOT forgotten.

#### **Collection Point of Contact:**

Sue Clayton, Lycoming County Domestic Relations  
48 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-327-2395

**Due by:** February 10, 2022

#### **What is needed:**

Valentine Cards

1. homemade or store bought
2. any salutation you would like - "a Hero" or "a Veteran"
3. You can sign the cards with your name or leave them blank

The Valentines are sent to Walter Reed Army Hospital, the Wilkes Barre VA and local hospitals that house Veterans. For those of you that are curious due to recent regulations about sending 'anonymous' mail to these facilities, please be assured that she has specific contacts who assist and make sure the Valentines get to the right people!



# Your Reps in Washington & Harrisburg



## U.S. Representative Fred Keller — 12th 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://keller.house.gov/>

**Washington, DC Office**  
 202-225-3731

**Selinsgrove Office**  
 570-374-9469

**Tunkhannock Office**  
 570-996-6550



## PA State Senator Gene Yaw — Senate District 23

175 Pine Street, Suite 105  
 Williamsport, PA 17701  
 Phone: 570-322-6457  
 Fax: 570-327-3703  
 Toll-free: 1-800-443-5772

Website: <http://senatorgeneyaw.com/>

362 Main Capitol  
 Senate Box 203023  
 Harrisburg, Pa 17120-3023  
 Phone: 717-787-3280  
 Fax: 717-772-0575

TTY: 800-364-1581

Email: [gyaw@pasen.gov](mailto:gyaw@pasen.gov)



## PA State Representative Joe Hamm — 84th Legislative District

274 Broad Street  
 Montoursville, Pa 17754

Phone: 570-546-2084  
 Fax: 570-368-5668

Website: <http://www.repjoehamm.com/>

Tiadaghton Valley Mall  
 Room 105

Jersey Shore, PA 17740  
 Phone: 570-398-4476  
 Fax: 570-398-5963

Email: [jhamm@pahousegop.com](mailto:jhamm@pahousegop.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)

Room 414 Irvis Office Building  
 P.O. Box 202083  
 Harrisburg, PA 17120-2083  
 Phone: 717-787-2885

Email: [jwheeland@pahousegop.com](mailto:jwheeland@pahousegop.com)

**Not sure who your representative is? Find out at:**

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/countylist.cfm?CNTYLIST=LYCOMING>

## FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS:

**A**re you rated 100% total and permanently disabled by the VA or do you have Individual Unemployability? Then you may be eligible for real estate tax exemption and free hunting and fishing licenses.

Call 570-327-2365 for more information.

60% - 99% - ask about reduced hunting and fishing licenses.

## FROM THE LYCOMING COUNTY VA OFFICE:



**W**ould you like to have a VA Benefit Seminar at a Nursing Home, Legion, VFW, or Other Organization? Have Mike 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.



**H**ome Loans? Contact Bob Brown, VA Loan Officer at Best American Mortgage Company.

Phone: 484-494-6593

Web: [www.BESTPALOAN.COM](http://www.BESTPALOAN.COM)

\*Licensed by the PA Dept. of Banking\*

\*call for information on eligibility

\*call for COEs

\*call even if you've had bankruptcy or been denied

### **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 Keely Hitchens at the Veterans Affairs Office.

**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 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Scheduled appointments only

**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. 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 Lycoming County CareerLink office is located at:**  
**329 Pine Street in Williamsport**

**Hours :**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Phone:** 570-601-5465

For a dedicated professional to help veterans find job opportunities:

**Contact:** Timothy French

Phone: 570-601-5934

E-mail: [tifrench@pa.gov](mailto:tifrench@pa.gov)

Online: [pacareerlink.pa.gov](http://pacareerlink.pa.gov)

**Do you know about VRRAP?**  
**Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program**  
**(VRRAP)**

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) offers education and training for high-demand jobs to Veterans who are unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Go online or visit Pennsylvania Career Link to learn more!

<https://www.va.gov/education/other-v-a-education-benefits/veteran-rapid-retraining-assistance/>



## Lycoming County Office of Veterans Affairs

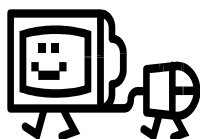
330 Pine Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Suite 401  
Executive Plaza Building

Mailing Address:  
48 West Third Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
570-327-2365

*County Commissioners*  
*Scott Metzger,*  
*Chairman*  
*Tony R. Mussare,*  
*Vice Chairman*  
*Richard Mirabito,*  
*Secretary*

**Visit Our Web Site:**  
**[www.lyco.org/VA](http://www.lyco.org/VA)**

For up-to-date  
News and  
Information  
For Veterans



***The Lycoming Vet***  
*is published*  
*by the Office of*



**We are here to help you,  
please call 570-327-2365 to schedule an appointment.**

Fully accredited as a Veterans Service Officers by the Pennsylvania  
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

**W. Michael McMunn**  
**Director of Veterans Affairs**  
wmcmunn@lyco.org

- US Army

**Natalie S. Steppe**  
**Assistant Director of Veterans Affairs**  
nsteppe@lyco.org

**James Mitchley**  
**Assistant of Veterans Affairs**  
jmitchley@lyco.org

- US Army

## Office Hours

Scheduled Appointments on:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Walk-Ins Welcomed on Wednesday

No Comp. or Pension Claims.

No Appointment needed

Information ONLY

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed weekends and major holidays.

## The Lycoming County VA Office Will Be Closed:

New Year's Eve - Friday, December 31, 2021

Martin Luther King Jr. Day– Monday, January 17, 2022

President's Day– Monday, February 21, 2022

Good Friday - Friday, April 15, 2022

**Reps. Jeff C. Wheeland and Joe Hamm**  
invite you to attend one of their upcoming

# GUN LAW SEMINARS

Learn the facts about Pennsylvania's concealed carry laws and the Castle Doctrine.



**THURSDAY, JAN. 27, 6-8 P.M.**

**Old Lycoming Township  
Volunteer Fire Co.**

1600 Dewey Ave., Williamsport

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2, 6-8 P.M.**

**Community Baptist Church  
1853 State Route 87, Montoursville**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 6-8 P.M.**

**Clinton Township  
Volunteer Fire Co.  
2311 Route 54 Highway, Montgomery**

**Lycoming County District Attorney  
Ryan Gardner**

will discuss Pennsylvania's Castle Doctrine  
and Stand Your Ground laws.

**Lycoming County Sheriff Mark Lusk**  
will explain rules and regulations surrounding  
licenses to carry firearms.

**A State Police Officer** will discuss how  
to safely interact with the police when  
carrying a firearm.

**A Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Wildlife Conservation Officer**  
will discuss firearm carry laws as they  
relate to hunting seasons.

## SPACE IS LIMITED.

Attendees **MUST RSVP** either online at [www.RepWheeland.com](http://www.RepWheeland.com)  
or [www.RepJoeHamm.com](http://www.RepJoeHamm.com) or by calling Wheeland's office at 570-321-  
1270 or emailing [jmaggs@pahousegop.com](mailto:jmaggs@pahousegop.com). They may also call Hamm's  
office at 570-327-2084 or emailing [kkoeh@pahousegop.com](mailto:kkoeh@pahousegop.com).

The Lycoming County Veterans Affairs Office is grateful to be the home of many donated items.

Please feel welcome to visit our office and view the display.

Thank you to the families that have entrusted us with not only their family's history,  
but pieces of our collective history.

Thank you.

## Donated by The Franzen Family In Loving Memory of Ragnar Walden Franzen WWII 1937 U.S.N. 1959





## Toys for Tots 2021

The Toys for Tots were picked up and the collection was a huge success!

Thank you so much to all the visitors, local businesses, county employees and families that brought in toys!

117 toys were collected!

You brightened the holidays for many local children!  
Thank you!



JEFF MACNELLY'S SHOE BY CHRIS CASSATT AND GARY BROOKINS

