

# Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for October 2018

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## **Veteran Emergency Fund**

A start up meeting is scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (location TBD). If interested in being part of this local committee, please contact me ASAP! This is a first of its kind for this area. It is meant to assist Veterans with emergency needs not covered by other entities.

## **Elder Law Summit**

October 30, 2018 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Queensbury Hotel, 88 Ridge St, Glens Falls, NY 12801. The Conkling Center is partnering with the Elder Law and Special Needs Committee of the Warren County Bar Association to conduct an Elder Law Day. **Registration is REQUIRED and spaces are limited. Please call The Conkling Center for reservations at TEL: (518) 793-1494. No fee to attend.**

## **Info regarding HR 299**

**Background:** During the Vietnam War, veterans who served in the offshore waters of Vietnam drank, bathed in, and cooked with water contaminated by Agent Orange. They are now arbitrarily and unjustly denied benefits for illnesses associated with Agent Orange exposure. On July 25, 2018, the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 299, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018*. This bipartisan legislation would end the injustice of denying care and benefits to veterans who suffer from life-threatening health conditions. H.R. 299 is now stalled in the Senate. If the Senate fails to pass this bill it will die and may never be considered again.

**Take Action:** Contact your Senators to demand that the Senate swiftly pass H.R. 299. The Senate must not delay passage of this important bill while Blue Water Navy veterans sicken and die from diseases related to exposure to Agent Orange.

## **Did you know when you have VA health care, there is support for your caregiver, too?**

Caregivers of Veterans of all eras can access peer mentoring, a support phone line, a local [Support Coordinator](#) and more. These licensed professionals can provide useful information about available services and connect caregivers with other resources in their community.

For injured Post-9/11 Veterans, VA provides caregivers support through the [Program for Family Caregivers](#). This includes enhanced services such as access to health insurance and financial assistance. With the implementation of the VA MISSION Act, the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) will expand to eligible Veterans from all eras of service. Post-9/11 Veterans have benefited greatly from this program and expansion will occur in two phases, starting with those who were injured on or before May 7, 1975. The timeline for this expansion is still under development.

Take the first step by enrolling in VA health care and experience the many services VA can provide to you and your family caregiver. Visit [Explore.VA.gov](http://Explore.VA.gov) or call Stratton VAMC in Albany NY at 518/626-5000.

**BETTER YET CALL US FOR A 360 REVIEW OF ANY/ALL BENEFITS YOU ARE ENTITLED TO!**