

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
February 1, 2021 3:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Chair: Tom Richardson

Members:

Preston Allen

Ed Kinowski

Jack Lawler

Dan Pemrick

Mo Wright

Benny Zlotnick

- I. Welcome and Attendance
- II. Approval of the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting
- III. Appointment of a Vice-Chair
- IV. Veterans Office Annual Report
- V. Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony Discussion
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adjournment

Due to public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, there is limited capacity in the Boardrooms. The public will have an opportunity to hear the meeting live via an audio signal using this call-in number and access code:

Dial: 1-978-990-5145

Access Code: 1840389

# SARATOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY



## 2020 Annual Report

Frank McClement

Director

# Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency

## Mission Statement

**“The Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency assists Veterans and their families with securing earned benefits and services through quality customer service and advocacy.”**

Saratoga County is home approximately **17,508 Veterans** and their families. The Agency is staffed by Accredited Service Officers to assist in filing claims for Federal VA benefits which include:

- Disability Compensation
- Pension
- Health Care
- Education and Training
- Home Loan
- Burial and Memorial
- Dependents and Survivors

Agency staff also provides additional services to include:

- Transition Assistance
- Homeless Outreach – Housing Assistance
- Military Records and Medals Requests
- Inter-County and Outside agency connections and referrals
- Employment connections and referrals to resources
- Van Transportation to Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany
- Support of Veteran Recognition Programs and Ceremonies
- Outreach Presentations and Education

Saratoga County has honored over 300 Veterans at the monthly **Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony**. The ceremony has become a tradition here at Saratoga County, and includes participation from elected officials at all levels of government, as well as local Veterans organizations and supporters.

**The Saratoga County F.A.V.O.R. Program** is dedicated to educating and assisting Veterans record in the importance of recording their original DD-214 discharge document with the County Clerk’s office. By doing so, Veterans and their families are readily equipped to garnish a variety of benefits and programs available to them in honor of their service to our Country.

**The Saratoga County Veterans Trust Fund** accepts donations and makes disbursements to Saratoga County Veterans and Veteran’s organizations in need of assistance. The Fund provides grants to Saratoga County Veterans or their families for training, education, health care, housing assistance and essential services; and for the benefit of groups, organizations, programs, and projects dedicated to the welfare and support of the Saratoga County Veterans. Donations are tax deductible, and all funds stay local.

The **Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection** provides an opportunity for local Veterans who have reintegrated to civilian life to assist fellow Veterans who may experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other re-acclimation challenges. Personalized and informal, these pairings yield relationships intended to ease the transition from military to civilian life. Funding is made possible through the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program for Veterans [www.veteranspeerconnection.org](http://www.veteranspeerconnection.org).

**Contact information:** phone, 518-884-4115; fax – 518-884-4290; e-mail [veterans@saratogacountyny.gov](mailto:veterans@saratogacountyny.gov)

### VSA 2020 by the Numbers:

- **Veteran Population** – Saratoga County is home to **17,183 veterans, ranking 12<sup>th</sup> in NYS.** By comparison, Albany County -14,948; Rensselaer County –9,591; Warren – 5,372; Washington County – 4770;
- **Veterans Transportation** – The Saratoga County VSA provided **392 Veterans rides to VA medical appointments, logging over 7350 miles between January and December 2020.** (Appendix A)
- **VA Expenditures** - Department of Veterans Affairs Total Expenditures for FY 2019 equaled **\$96,107,000 in Saratoga County.** See attached for breakdown. (Appendix B)
- **Peer to Peer Program** – Saratoga County Veterans Peer to Peer Mentoring Program continued to expand and currently has **220 active Peers involved.** (Peer to Peer Report – Appendix C)
- **Electronic Claim Development** – **100% of all claims that pass through this office are electronically developed and archived.** This allows for an integrated service network internally, and more efficient service and record keeping. We are also now submitting all claims electronically, with only few exceptions. In April 2020, we upgraded our contact/case management software system to the “VetPro” platform. This platform allows for fully web-based access, along with remote signature capabilities, and fully electronic submission direct to the VA VBMS system.
- **Veterans ID Card (FAVOR)** – The VSA continues to partner with, and assist the Saratoga County Clerk and Saratoga County Board of Supervisors with the FAVOR Veterans ID card program. This program has also contributed to the VSA conducting over **66 official requests for records in 2020 and over 2300 since the beginning of the program** for those Veterans who did not have proper service documentation in their possession. These requests will facilitate future benefits delivery for either financial and/or end of life benefits for Veterans and their surviving family members.
- **Veterans Trust Fund** – The VSA continues to assist the Board of Supervisors to bolster the Saratoga County Veterans Trust and Agency Fund throughout 2020. Our major fundraiser, Revolutionary run for Veterans 5k, was not held due to Covid-19; however, a Death Wish Coffee fundraiser produced over 23k in donations. Additionally, several individual contributors continued to add to the fund. (Trust Fund Report - Appendix D)

### VSA 2020 Highlights:

- **Staff Training** – 2020 changed our training plans quite a bit, staff members worked hard to continue training in order to learn and grow to better serve our clients. All in-person training was either conducted via teleconference or cancelled. The Staff of the Saratoga County VSA participates in ongoing professional development and training to ensure constant adherence to VA laws and regulations. In 2019, this included:
  - Quarterly Veteran Service Officer Conference - (phone in)
  - VA Information Security Awareness - Privacy Policy Training (e-learn)
  - NYS Division of Veterans Affairs Training – (web-based in 2020)
  - NVLSP – web-based seminar training provided at the cost of NYS.
  - National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (cancelled 2020)
- **Honor Deceased Veteran Ceremonies** – This is another program directly affected by COVID. We hosted only one ceremony this year in January. February was cancelled due to a snow storm, and then COVID hit. We are currently in a holding pattern until we can safely resume this program. Our intent is to pick up where we left off on the rotation of Towns/Cities. Timing of a re-start will have to include buy-in from local Veterans organizations who historically supported the program and have played critical roles.
- **Veterans Transportation Service** – Service demand dropped significantly due to many clinics closing at the VAMC due to COVID, as well as social distancing restrictions, etc. We were granted permission by the County Administrator and the BOS to pursue an agreement with Lyft to provide more flexibility in critical situations. Our current van has now been in service since April 2015, and currently has 133,133 miles on the odometer. The van still seems to be running well, and DPW is very helpful in keeping it in good running order. - Appendix A
- **Saratoga County P2P Veterans Program** – The Peer to Peer Program also had to dramatically adjust in 2020. Our Program Coordinator, Amy Hughes, shifted strategy to stay connected with as many Veterans as possible as well as keep them connected to each other. We also leveraged our volunteers to assist in distributing the supplies we purchased for those in need. We also continue to lobby for continued funding of the Dwyer program through NYS. FUNDING FOR THIS PROGRAM IS IN JEOPARDY. NYS has NOT released our 20/21 allocation as approved in the NYS budget, and continued funding is in question at this time. Highlights from the program are detailed in the attached report. – Appendix C
- **Facebook** - The Saratoga County Veterans Facebook page allows us to reach out to individuals and groups with up to date information. This has proven to be a valuable, non-traditional, and no-cost tool to use for outreach. We have utilized this platform to also promote our events, especially the Run for Veterans. **The page currently has 832**

followers, with over 75,000 friends of fans, which is the total potential population that can be reached with a post. [www.facebook.com/SaratogaCountyVeterans](http://www.facebook.com/SaratogaCountyVeterans)

- **Electronic Claim Development** – We continue to maximize efforts to be as “paperless” as possible. While we had been exploring new and improved options for case/contact management software, the pandemic created a sense of urgency for the upgrade. In April 2020, we upgraded our contact/case management software system to the “VetPro” platform. This platform allows for fully web-based access, along with remote signature capabilities, and fully electronic submission directly to the VA VBMS system.
- **Equipment** – New software came with tablets to be utilized for the electronic signature capabilities. Added WIFI capabilities to our office to be able to utilize the tablets and for COVID operations. We also leveraged the P2P grant to purchase video conference equipment to assist in continuing P2P programming.
- **Veterans Outreach** – In-person outreach events have ceased due to the pandemic. Our focus in 2020 has been through word of mouth, maintaining close liaison with outside Veterans agencies and organizations, as well as social media.
- **Veterans Trust Fund** - Our fund continues to grow and remain healthy. Our hope to use 2020 as a year to explore options for use of this fund to serve our Veterans in new or expanded ways was put into action with utilizing some of the funds for COVID - related emergency assistance efforts. We also had the fortunate opportunity to be the recipient of a generous fundraising effort by Death Wish Coffee Company, which we were gifted a donation of \$23,266.00. In addition to the efforts above, the BOS (Veterans Committee) also granted 4 community groups grants of \$2000 each to support their Veterans support projects. – Appendix D
- **Revolutionary Run for Veterans** – Cancelled for 2020. Early planning underway for 2021, with hopes to be able to host the event.
- **COVID Relief Efforts**- In addition to our adjustments to normal operations, we began to utilize our Trust Fund for emergency relief efforts to assist Veterans we are in contact with. We leveraged the Trust Fund to purchase paper products, cleaning supplies, food, and grocery gift cards for distribution to the Veteran community. We distributed masks and hand sanitizer to Veterans and Veterans organizations to include the American Legion, VFW, and VCHC. We also shared purchased food and supplies with the VCHC, as well as provided them grants to bolster their food pantry efforts as mentioned above. We also partnered with the American Legion and accepted donation of a truckload of toys which we distributed to Veteran families, VCHC, and shared overflow with DSS and Youth Bureau. Staff also assisted the Public Health call center during shut-down, as well as OFA Senior Drive Through Picnic.

## **Conclusion**

2020 was a most challenging year for our Agency. Deemed non-essential during the pandemic shut-down created significant logistical challenges to meeting our mission. Our focus became those most in need, and we continued to serve as many clients as possible. Administrative and Board of Supervisors support allowed us to make improvements rapidly, allowing us the tools to keep serving our clients.

***“Adapt, improvise, and overcome.”*** is a mantra often used in the military, and I am proud of our staff’s ability to do just that. Our staff’s flexibility and dedication to our mission made us a success, and had a positive effect on the lives of those we serve. 2020 was a year of firsts in many negative ways, but some of our changes, made out of necessity today, will allow us to better serve in the future.

### **Attachments:**

- **Appendix A:** Contacts and Services for 2020
- **Appendix B:** VA Expenditures in Saratoga County FY2019\*  
\*(2020 numbers have not been released by VA as of this report.)
- **Appendix C:** Saratoga County Veterans Peer to Peer Program Report
- **Appendix D:** Saratoga County Veterans Trust and Agency Fund Report EOY 2020
- **Appendix E:** Honor our Deceased Veterans List 2020

## **2020 Veterans Service Officer Contacts and Services**

- **Scheduled Appointments** - Conducted **166** claim appointments. *(2019 -374)*
- **Claims** - Processed **242** new claims for VA benefits. *(2019-507)*
- **Medicaid Pension Referrals** – Reviewed and/or processed **35** referrals for Veterans or spouses in Medicaid covered nursing home care. *(2019– 180)*
- **DSS Referrals** – Contacted **22** Veterans referred from DSS for benefits review. *(2019 - 103)*
- **Record Requests** –Submitted **66** requests for records from National Personnel Records Center. *(2019- 179)*
- **Van Riders** – Provided rides for **392** Veterans to the Stratton VA Medical Center, Albany, for a total of approximately **7350** miles *(2019 -1510 /Approx. 28,000 miles)*



## VA FY2019 Expenditures in Saratoga County

Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension <sup>1</sup>	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment <sup>2</sup>	Insurance & Indemnities <sup>3</sup>	Medical Care <sup>4</sup>	Unique Patients <sup>5</sup>
\$96,107,000	\$47,922,000	\$ 8,895,000	\$1,256,000	\$38,033,000	\$3,725,000

1-**Compensation and Pension**- Cash payments made directly to Veterans or dependents for the following programs: veterans' compensation for service-connected disabilities; dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths; veterans' pension for non-service-connected disabilities; and burial and other benefits to veterans and their survivors.

2- **Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment**- Includes automobile and adaptive equipment, specially adapted housing, survivors' and dependents' educational assistance, Vocational Rehabilitation, Post-Vietnam Era Veterans educational Assistance, Montgomery GI Bill, Reserve Educational Assistance program, and Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance.

3- **Insurance and Indemnities**-includes: Death Claims, Matures endowments, dividends, cash surrender payments, total disability income provision payments, and total and permanent disability benefits payments.

4- **Medical Care**-Medical Care expenditures include dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, educational support, research support, and other overhead items. Medical Care expenditures do not include dollars for construction or other non-medical support.

5- **Unique Patients**- A patient that is unique in each division from which they receive care at a VA health care facility.

## Annual Report – 2020

### P2P 2020 – Highlights

**2020 was obviously an unusual year, but we attempted to maintain some sense of normalcy for our Veterans.**

- **Recruitment** – Was able to recruit a few folks prior to the March shut down. Have been able to continue get veterans connected individually as they reach out.
- **Promotional Video/PSA Spots** – In 2020 this video continued to play on the DMV television screens at all DMV locations.
- **Advertising** – No paid advertising this year.
- **Incarcerated Veterans Program – January through March we were in the jail. Suspended due to COVID.** In partnership with the Saratoga County Sheriff and the Veterans Service Agency this program continued to show success at the county jail. In April, 2014 VSA Director Frank McClement and Program Coordinator Amy Hughes met with the Saratoga County Sheriff and Deputy Sgt. Ray Rodriguez to introduce the Peer to Peer Program into the Saratoga County Jail. Also partnering with the program are VCHCNY, VA Veterans Justice Outreach (Elizabeth Ball, Stratton VAMC), and Saratoga County Probation. The result has been a bi-monthly group meeting open to Veterans incarcerated at the Saratoga County Jail that is led by a Peer Mentor (currently 4 peer mentors rotate) from our program and attended by A VA VJO staff member and a rep from VCHCNY. Through these meetings, needs are identified and Veterans are able to connect with appropriate resources, as well as peer mentors when they are released.
- **Vets & Pets – Program on hold for 2020** In May 2015 in partnership with Saratoga Animal Shelter we initiated a program where the goal is to get Veterans connected with Companion Animals. The Veteran begins by volunteering at the shelter, and when they make a connection with an animal we hope to assist with the adoption as well as getting the dog or cat registered as a companion animal. We continue to connect Veterans with the Shelter, although the program is not as robust as we hoped.
- **Lunch and Learns** – All were cancelled for this year
- **Veterans Chorus** –Veterans Chorus entered its second year and continued to meet every Monday night at the American Legion Post 70 in Saratoga, until the first week of March. Since then they have met via zoom on Monday nights. This is proving to be a great way to connect with veterans who may not otherwise find us.

- **Additional Events –**

Every Tuesday until the second week of March, we held coffee night at Saratoga Coffee Traders. They give us free space and a significant discount on the coffee. It remains one of our best efforts. We average 20-25 Veterans per night. We took a pause and then in June began “Tailgate Tuesdays” (bring your own chair and drink, socialize in the parking lot). In October we were able to move back to SCT. The owner closed the store when we arrived so that we had the entire space and could easily socially distance. Our annual Christmas party was Dec 15 where we held an Ugly Mask Contest.

Social events included: a yoga class, paint night, a nature (guided) hike in Moreau, and outdoor movie night

We hosted our fourth Comedy Night at Comedy Works in Saratoga, just prior to the shutdown.

Had one all mentor training

Other activities include: A T-shirt design contest, Narcan training, Photo Scavenger Hunt, a Veterans Garden group began working around our building, and CDTA came to one coffee night to assist veterans with Navigator Card applications. We also began a Women’s Walking Group – we met for 2 months prior to the cold weather.

Program Coordinator presented at two schools. In February, 6 veterans joined her at Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake MS to present to a history class. And in March she presented alone to a group of high school students at Galway HS.

In February, the Coordinator was present at 6 outreach events and in March, there was one just prior to the shutdown. She was also invited to present over Skype to 70 social workers at the Albany VA in April. In October she presented to 200+ providers at the VA mental health summit.

**COVID Pandemic:**

*Every day sent 15-20 texts to the veterans in my contact list. That includes all participants at various levels. I have made them aware that I have food, and some financial resources, when they have a need. The daily texts have continued throughout 2020*

*Put together a list of online resources which I have shared with veterans as well as posted all available resources on FB*

*Take calls and respond to individuals who need to have someone to talk to.*

*Managed food requests:*

**Total assistance provided since Mid-March 2020 - 257 households**

Assisted VSA staff in distribution of the following:

Paper products, cleaning products, donated meat, canned goods, produce, supermarket gift cards, Walmart gift cards, masks, hand sanitizer, donated clothing (socks, hats, gloves), toys at Christmas

- **Reporting** – Program Coordinator completed all expected reports and updates for SUNY and NYS.
- **Funding** – *We have not received our 20/21 allocation from NYS that was approved last year in the NYS Budget. We currently only have just under \$12,000 left of state funding.*

#### **P2P 2019 - By the Numbers**

- **Veteran Peers Involved** – 220
- **Community Outreach opportunities attended** - 11 events in 2020
- **New Mentor Trainings** - 0 mentors trained in 2020
- **New Mentor Matches** - 5 matches in 2020
- **Peer mentoring services to Veterans** - 413 in person contacts  
825 phone contacts  
4144 text/email contacts
- **Peer mentoring services to family members\*** - 137  
*\*This is not an advertised service, but is provided as needed.*
- **Program Coordinator contacts with individual Veterans** – 11,991 (143 in person)

Submitted by: Amy Hughes, Program Coordinator

## VETERANS TRUST FUND

DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DISBURSEMENTS	DEPOSITS	ACTUAL BALANCE
	MONTH TOTAL: NOVEMBER 2019	\$ -	\$ 8,884.00	\$ 102,948.22
12/2/2019	Hoffman & Miller Oil Co. - Margaret Liburdi Emergency	\$ 488.00		\$ 102,460.22
12/16/2019	Santander Consumer USA - Gene Martin Emergency	\$ 836.00		\$ 101,624.22
12/19/2019	Spirit of Life Church Donation		\$ 300.00	\$ 101,924.22
	MONTH TOTAL: DECEMBER 2019	\$ 1,324.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 101,924.22
12/31/2019	4th Qtr Interest		\$ 12.39	\$ 101,936.61
	2019 5K Run Expenses	\$ 16,192.00		\$ 85,744.61
1/9/2020	Waterford Senior Center		\$ 200.00	\$ 85,944.61
	MONTH TOTAL: JANUARY 2020	\$ 16,192.00	\$ 212.39	\$ 85,944.61
2/5/2020	Carol Barraclough Donation		\$ 50.00	\$ 85,994.61
	MONTH TOTAL: FEBRUARY 2020	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 85,994.61
3/16/2020	Frank McClement - Food pantry items for office	\$ 750.00		\$ 85,244.61
	MONTH TOTAL: MARCH 2020	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 85,244.61
4/2/2020	1st Qtr Interest		\$ 10.56	\$ 85,255.17
4/28/2020	VCHC - Emergency Disbursement	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 83,255.17
4/30/2020	Move \$ per Bd Res 88-2020 due to COVID-19 crisis	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 78,255.17
	MONTH TOTAL: APRIL 2020	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 10.56	\$ 78,255.17
5/21/2020	Waterford Clock - 5K sponsor		\$ 100.00	\$ 78,355.17
	MONTH TOTAL: MAY 2020	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 78,355.17

## VETERANS TRUST FUND

DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DISBURSEMENTS	DEPOSITS	ACTUAL BALANCE
6/18/2020	The Oliviere's Donation		\$ 500.00	\$ 78,855.17
	In Memory of Thomas Nadeau		\$ 495.00	\$ 79,350.17
	<b>MONTH TOTAL: JUNE 2020</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 995.00</b>	<b>\$ 79,350.17</b>
7/10/2020	In Memory of Thomas Nadeau - Blake/Gainer		\$ 50.00	\$ 79,400.17
	In Memory of Thomas Nadeau - Marie Salvati		\$ 100.00	\$ 79,500.17
	McInerney Donation		\$ 50.00	\$ 79,550.17
	<b>MONTH TOTAL: JULY 2020</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$ 79,550.17</b>
8/1/2020	2nd Qtr Interest		\$ 9.77	\$ 79,559.94
	<b>MONTH TOTAL: AUGUST 2020</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9.77</b>	<b>\$ 79,559.94</b>
	<b>MONTH TOTAL: SEPTEMBER 2020</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 79,559.94</b>
10/1/2020	3rd Qtr Interest		\$ 9.97	\$ 79,569.91
10/16/2020	2020 Run Signup		\$ 66.20	\$ 79,636.11
10/23/2020	Lisa Hillard Donation		\$ 39.00	\$ 79,675.11
10/30/2020	Death Wish Coffee Mug Sales Donation		\$ 23,226.00	\$ 102,901.11
	<b>MONTH TOTAL: OCTOBER 2020</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 23,341.17</b>	<b>\$ 102,901.11</b>
11/2/2020	Elizabeth Ramirez - Emergency Disbursement	\$ 256.68		\$ 102,644.43
11/13/2020	Grace Chapel of Clifton Park Donation		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 103,644.43
	Supervisor John Lant Donation		\$ 50.00	\$ 103,694.43
	<b>MONTH TOTAL: NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>\$ 256.68</b>	<b>\$ 1,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 103,694.43</b>
12/8/2020	VCHC Disbursement	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 101,694.43
	Saratoga Nat'l Cemetery Honor Guard Association Disbursement	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 99,694.43
	VFW Post 5836 Auxilliary Disbursement	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 97,694.43
	Malta Veteran's Appreciation Program	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 95,694.43
12/10/2020	Saratoga Co Clerk - Sam Brewer Emergency Disbursement	\$ 150.50		\$ 95,543.93

### VETERANS TRUST FUND

DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	DISBURSEMENTS	DEPOSITS	ACTUAL BALANCE
12/24/2020	RunSignup Inc.		\$ 3.80	\$ 95,547.73
12/31/2020	Spirit of Life Church Donation		\$ 300.00	\$ 95,847.73
	<b>MONTH TOTAL: DECEMBER 2020</b>	<b>\$ 8,150.50</b>	<b>\$ 303.80</b>	<b>\$ 95,847.73</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$ 100,194.59</b>	<b>\$ 196,042.32</b>	<b>\$ 95,847.73</b>

## **Veterans Trust Fund Proposed Community Support Proposal**

**Veterans and Community Housing Coalition - Food Pantry/COVID Relief - VCHC** Operates the men's and women's transitional housing facilities for homeless Veterans. They also own or manage several rent subsidized apartments as well as administer the VA SSVF grant for Veterans and families. During COVID, they have created a food pantry to support local Veterans. We provided \$2000 in support at the beginning of the pandemic, and the need continues.

**National Cemetery Honor Guard Association - Volunteer Organization Provides Funeral Honors** for all Veteran interments at the Gerald Solomon National Cemetery. Though affiliated with the Cemetery, this 501 c-3 organization is all-volunteer staffed, and supported through private donations and grants. Members often incur the cost of their own uniforms worn to perform the honors. They are seeking donations to offset the cost of uniforms and supplies.

**VFW Post 5836 Hadley - Christmas Adopt a Family program** - Each year the VFW post adopts a number of families for Christmas. This year, donations are down significantly, and funds are low to meet the need. These funds would be directed toward families in the Northern Saratoga County that engage with the VFW for assistance.

**Malta Veterans Appreciation Project – Veteran Home Projects** - The grass-roots Malta group aids Malta Veterans in a number of different ways. Currently, they are working on a rehab project to renovate 2 mobile homes and set up a donated tiny house located in Malta Gardens to provide housing for Veterans that have a can sustain the home. They need support to help pay for materials they are unable to obtain through donation, as well as possible mechanicals and appliances.

**\*\*Disbursements approved by BOS Veterans Committee December 2020.**



## Honor Deceased Veterans 2020

<b>Month</b>	<b>Veteran</b>	<b>Town</b>
January	Baldwin-WWII	Wilton
February	Snow storm- No Ceremony	Saratoga
March	Covid- No Ceremony	Malta
April	Covid- No Ceremony	Stillwater
May	Covid- No Ceremony	City of Mechanicville
June	Covid- No Ceremony	Corinth
July	Covid- No Ceremony	Waterford
August	Covid- No Ceremony	Moreau
September	Covid- No Ceremony	Providence
October	Covid- No Ceremony	Milton
November	Covid- No Ceremony	Hadley
December	Covid- No Ceremony	Greenfield

2020	Town	Last Ceremony	Supervisor	Veteran Honored
January	Town of Wilton	4/18	John Lant	Elton "Joseph" Baldwin- Post WWII
<b>February</b>	<b>Town of Saratoga</b>	<b>5/18</b>	<b>Thomas Wood III</b>	<b>Charles E. Drew Sr. - WWII</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Town of Malta</b>	<b>6/18</b>	<b>Darren O'Connor</b>	<b>Doris and John Principe- Korea</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Town of Stillwater</b>	<b>7/18</b>	<b>Edward Kinowski</b>	<b>Lawrence "Rex" Carney- WWII</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>City of Mechanicville</b>	<b>8/18</b>	<b>Thomas J. Richardson</b>	<b>Christopher Scambati</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Town of Corinth</b>	<b>12/16</b>	<b>Richard Lucia</b>	
<b>July</b>	<b>Town of Waterford</b>	<b>10/18</b>	<b>John Lawler</b>	
<b>August</b>	<b>Town of Moreau</b>	<b>2/17</b>	<b>Theodore Kusnierz</b>	
<b>September</b>	<b>Town of Providence</b>	<b>10/17</b>	<b>Sandra Winney</b>	<b>Howard "Dick" Neahr- WWII</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>Town of Milton</b>	<b>1/19</b>	<b>Benny Zlotnick</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>Town of Hadley</b>	<b>2/19</b>	<b>Arthur Wright</b>	<b>John Hughes</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>Town of Greenfield</b>	<b>3/19</b>	<b>Daniel Pemrick</b>	

2021	Town	Last Ceremony	Supervisor	Veteran Honored
January	Town of Ballston	7/17	Eric Connolly	
February	City of Saratoga Springs	5/19	Matthew Veitch/ Tara Gaston	
March	Town of Galway	6/19	Michael Smith	
April	Town of Clifton Park	7/19	Philip Barrett/Jonathan Schopf	
May	Town of Halfmoon	8/19	Kevin Tollisen	
June	Town of Edinburg	9/19	Jean Raymond	
July	Town of Northumberland	10/19	Willard Peck	
August	Town of Charlton	5/12	Joe Grasso	
September	Town of Day	12/19	Preston Allen	
October	Town of Wilton	1/20	John Lant	
November	Town of Saratoga	2/20	Thomas Wood III	
December	Town of Malta	3/20	Darren O'Connor	

\*\*\* Decemeber 2019 - Town of Day Cancelled due to snowstorm