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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SARATOGA COUNTY OFFERS RESOURCES TO VETERANS OF AFGHANISTAN

County Veterans Service Agency's Veterans Peer Connection Program Holds Coffee Meet-up Each Tuesday; Mental Health Summit in September for Veterans and their Families

SARATOGA COUNTY, NY – The Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency today announced it has multiple resources and programs available for Afghanistan Veterans.

The Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection Program offers various resources including mentoring, informal meet-ups, structured assistance, and one-on-one peer matching to help veterans manage the unique stress and challenges they may feel. The program also helps to foster relationships within the veteran community that will build resiliency through encouragement, personal connections, and access to support and crisis intervention measures. All Veterans are welcome regardless of military discharge.

“Watching the grim news come out of Kabul and Afghanistan has stirred emotions for many, especially for Afghanistan Veterans, families, survivors, and caregivers,” said Frank McClement, Saratoga County Veterans Services Director and U.S. Army Veteran. “As events continue to unfold, and the 20th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, many veterans are feeling overwhelmed and looking for connection and companionship. Our Veterans Peer Connection program can help with that with connection to resources and, most importantly, to other veterans.”

Veterans looking for a way to meet other veterans in a stress free, no obligations environment, are invited to gather at Saratoga Coffee Traders (447 Broadway, Saratoga Springs) on Tuesday evenings from 5PM to 6:30PM. Participants will receive a free coffee and sandwich along with encouraging and supportive conversation with other veterans. No agenda, just veterans spending time together.

What: Saratoga County Veterans Connection Coffee Meet-Up

When: Tuesdays 5PM-6:30PM

Where: Saratoga Coffee Traders, Broadway, Saratoga Springs

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Veterans seeking structured assistance are encouraged to join us on September 17th for a Mental Health Summit. The Summit is open to all veterans and family members. Representatives from VA programs and community organizations will provide information and resources to those who attend.

What: Saratoga County Veterans Connection Mental Health Summit

When: Friday, September 17, 2021, 1PM

Where: Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency Office, 2144 Doubleday Ave, Ballston Spa.

The Agency's mentoring program pairs established, local veterans with returning veterans who are experiencing posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other re-acclimation challenges. Personalized and informal, these pairings yield relationships intended to ease the transition from combat to civilian life.

The Agency also offers a one-on-one peer matching program for those who prefer individual interaction.

Additional resources that may be helpful to veterans:

- Veterans Crisis Line – 800-273-8255
- Saratoga County Mental Health - 518-584-9030
- Albany Vet Center – 518-626-5130
- VA Rapid Access Clinic – 518-626-5339
- Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency – 518-884-4115
- VA Caregiver Support – 1-855-260-3274
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes Hotline - 202-249-7170

Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency provides support to the more than 17,000 veterans living in Saratoga County. Programs of the County's Veterans Service Agency are built on the foundation of veterans helping veterans. Veterans of every generation are encouraged to participate in these valuable programs and to take advantage of the Agency's beneficial resources. No veteran should ever feel that they are alone or forgotten. The Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency is here to support our veterans.

For more information about the Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency and its Veterans Peer Connection Program, please call 518-884-4999 or visit www.veteranspeerconnection.org.

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