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Town of Brookhaven Veterans Newsletter

W I N T E R 2 0 1 9

Message from Supervisor Edward P. Romaine

I want to wish all our veterans and their families a very healthy and happy 2019! In 2018, the Town of Brookhaven's Division of Veterans Services, working in a shared partnership with the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency, increased the number of veterans it was able to assist. This was accomplished through increasing the Town's community outreach to veterans.

An easy way to stay informed of the services and programs provided through our Division of Veterans Services is to sign up for email and text message updates through the Town's notification system. You can do this by visiting BrookhavenNy.gov/subscribe. Once you logon to this page, enter your email address at the top and select the boxes below to receive emails and/or text message alerts. After subscribing to receive Veterans Services updates, you will receive an email confirmation from Brookhaven Town. Upon confirming your subscription, you will soon begin to receive updates from Brookhaven Town.

I want to thank all our veterans for your selfless and courageous service to our country. If you would like to schedule an appointment with our Division of Veterans Services, please call 631-451-6574.

Veterans of Foreign War Post 414 in Center Moriches

Veterans of Foreign War Post 414 is located at 437 Montauk Highway (Main Street) in Center Moriches. There are currently about 100 members ranging from 30 years of age to veterans in their mid-90s. "There is a certain comradery amongst the members that is enjoyable to have in a place close to home," said VFW Post 414 Commander Louis Baer.

Mr. Baer says the VFW plays a significant role in the Center Moriches and surrounding communities. They sponsor a local Boy Scout troop, donate to community food pantries and organize the local Memorial Day Parade on Main Street in Center Moriches, amongst other initiatives.

Mr. Baer said VFW Post 414 is always seeking new members. At its peak in the 1980s, there were approximately 175 members. Many of the members during that time served in World War II. Most of the Post's current members are from the Vietnam War period. If you are interested in joining VFW Post 414 in Center Moriches, please call 631-878-4908.

Did You Know?

The Department of Veterans Affairs has new requirements for the Special Monthly Pension (SMP) with Aid and Attendance.

Basic eligibility requirements in order for a veteran or widow to apply for the SMP include:

1. Veteran must have served during a wartime period
2. Veteran must have an honorable discharge
3. Veteran or widow must have less than \$123,600 in assets (total assets are calculated by adding all assets such as 401k's with their annual income)
4. Veteran or widow requires help to perform activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, toileting, etc.
5. Veteran or widow is paying out -of- pocket for a caregiver, i.e. a home health aide, resides in an assisted living or similar community

To learn more or to see if you qualify, please call the Town of Brookhaven's Veterans Services Division at 631-451-6574 to speak with a Veterans Service Officer.

Long Island Cares VetsWork Program

Long Island Cares has a free program called VetsWork that helps veterans write a resume and cover letter, build job skills, aid in their job search process, and facilitate real workplace experience through various volunteer and training opportunities. The program has been operating for almost five years and, as of 2018, has helped more than 100 veterans find employment.

Fern Summer, who works with veterans through the VetsWork Program, said the goal is to help veterans find a job they really like. Some veterans also receive assistance starting their own businesses. "Age is not a barrier," Ms. Summer said. "We help veterans find employment from their early 20s through their 70s." The majority of veterans enrolled in the program are in their 30s and 40s. There are more than 200 veterans actively enrolled in the program.

Veterans who have found employment through the VetsWork Program stay involved by making VetsWork aware of open positions in their new field that are geared toward veterans; by providing information about job openings at their place of employment; providing information about hiring events; and sharing networking opportunities with VetsWork to promote employment for fellow veterans.

The program has many success stories. Successfully employed clients are a big part of the program and truly enjoy sharing information with veterans enrolled in the program.

To schedule an a meeting or to find out more information about the program, call Fern Summer at 631-824-6385 or email her at fsummer@licares.org.

"To see if you qualify, please contact the Town of Brookhaven's Veterans Service Division at 631-451-6574."

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