

Broome County VETERANS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

Welcome from the County Executive

On behalf of the residents of Broome County, I'd like to present the Spring 2015 edition of your Veterans Newsletter.

I've often told you that Veterans hold a special place in my heart. We do a great deal in our community to make sure you are not forgotten.

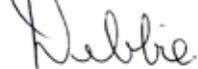
We have done some great things for our Veterans over the past few months. You will read about signs placed on highways entering Broome County that honor our Purple Heart recipients. You will read about the new name of the Veterans Memorial Arena and you will read about a room at SUNY Broome Community College, aimed at helping our Veterans in school.

This edition also has information on the Veterans of Distinction program through the Broome County Legislature. And information on upcoming events that are geared toward our community's Veterans.

I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your service and your sacrifice, past and present.

God bless you and your families and God Bless America.

DebbiePreston



Broome County Executive

Broome County Unveils New "Purple Heart County" Highway Signs

(Kirkwood, NY) – Broome County Legislator Scott Baker (R-Windsor) was joined by County Executive Debbie Preston, members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of State, NYSDOT and other county and municipal officials to unveil new Purple Heart County signage on major state highway entrances throughout Broome County.

At the May 2014 Legislative Session, the Legislature adopted a Resolution as part of its annual Veterans of Distinction Ceremony designating Broome County as a Purple Heart County to recognize recipients of this distinguished award. The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in use today and is awarded to any member of the United States Armed Forces who is wounded or killed in combat with a declared enemy of the United States of America.

"Many men and women in uniform have sacrificed everything to protect this Country and our freedoms and these signs will remind everyone entering Broome County that we honor and recognize those who have given so much for us," said Legislator Scott Baker. "I would like to thank everyone who helped make this possible, especially the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of New York, who brought this to our attention."

Mathew Tully, Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Department of New York, stated "These thoughtful measures by the people of Broome County are deeply touching. None of us set out with the mission of earning the Purple Heart, we sought to do our duty and earned one in the process. On behalf of every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine awarded the Purple Heart, I want to say thank you for this recognition."

Broome County is one of ten counties in New York State to have been designated a Purple Heart County.

"We have so many selfless people in Broome County that have put their lives aside to defend our Country," says Broome County Executive Debbie Preston. "These signs show that Broome County is proud of the sacrifice and dedication of our Purple Heart recipients."

The Purple Heart signs have been placed at twelve locations along state highways entering Broome County. The locations were determined with



(Continued on page 5)

Veterans Day Parade

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Help us to preserve the memories of our fallen heroes! The Broome County Veterans Parade Committee and the City of Binghamton are currently planning the annual Memorial Day Parade. We are hopeful that you will join us as we remember.

On Monday May 25th, 2015 at 2 P.M. we will be stepping off from American Legion Post 80, 76 Main Street, Binghamton, New York. Join many of your friends, family and local leaders as they pay tribute to the memory of all those who have served and are currently serving.

A short ceremony at the Broome County Courthouse is being planned after the parade. Antique cars, Police Departments, Fire Departments, and representatives of many military service organizations will be on hand to help us to keep the memories alive.

We are hoping for a strong turn out this year. If for any reason your group cannot participate and you know of another group or civic organization that wishes to honor our service members, please let us know. You may also provide a copy of this letter and registration to them.

This is a time of coming together in spirit and support of troops both past and present. To participate call me at (607) 765-7807. If you prefer, email sjunker@stny.rr.com You may also send back the enclosed response to Ms. Sandra Junker, 27 Frederick Drive, Apalachin, New York, 13732.

We are looking forward to having you as part of our Memorial Day Parade.

Respectfully,
Sandra J Junker , Ch, Broome County Parade Committee



Registration

Name of Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Organization type: _____

(Fire Co, Police Unit, Military Service Organization, High School Band Scouts (Boys-Girls), etc)

Email address: _____

Number of persons representing your organization: _____

Number of Vehicles representing your organization: _____

Contact member of your organization: _____ Phone: _____

Return to: Ms. Sandra J. Junker
27 Frederick Drive
Apalachin, New York 13732 (607) 765-7807

Arena Officially Known as Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena



Broome County Executive Debbie Preston joined David and William Maines and Broome County Legislator Daniel J. Reynolds to commemorate the official name change from the Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena to the Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena.

“We are excited to see the new signs go up and to officially start our partnership with the Maines family,” says Broome County Executive Debbie Preston. “This Arena serves as a memorial to our Veterans and what better way to show that than to name it after a local Veteran.”

“This is an honor for our father who fought for our country. He would have been so proud to have his name associated with the Veterans Memorial Arena. His devotion to the military and veterans makes this an especially heart-warming event,” stated David and William Maines.

The name change became official on September 30th. As part of the 5 year agreement, which could be extended an additional 15 years, the Maines family is paying the County \$75,000 per year for the life of the agreement. Broome County retains operations and maintenance for the building. Aside from the unveiling of the new signs on the outside of the building, a bronze plaque was unveiled in honor of Floyd L. Maines, which will hang inside the Arena. The Maines family also announced it will be participating in the Broome County Veterans Discount program, as well as providing Veterans in attendance with tickets to an upcoming hockey game.

“The Maines family has been a great partner in this and I’m pleased to see the new name of the Arena will highlight a local Veteran and community leader who had such a positive impact on our community,” said County Legislator Daniel J. Reynolds.

Floyd L. Maines, Jr., born in 1921, was a native of Binghamton, graduating from Binghamton Central High School in 1938. He attended Miami University of Ohio where he graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and was a member of Delta Epsilon. He played defensive end on the football team and boxed in the Golden Gloves boxing league. After graduation, Floyd joined the Navy and started training in Washington, D.C. for the elite Underwater Demolition Team. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant and was deployed in Europe to the Naval Technical Intelligence Department, where he played a key role in constantly developing anti-mining technologies to respond to Germany’s ever-changing mine deployment strategies. Floyd’s influence in changes needed to the structure of the Underwater Demolition Team helped create the Navy Seals.

Floyd had planned on joining the FBI after the war, but was asked by his father to join the family business, Maines Candy Company. Through Floyd’s leadership, Maines Candy Company was transformed into a multi-billion dollar food service distribution company now referred to as Maines Paper & Food Service. Floyd passed away on July 12, 2007.

Maines Paper & Food Service is one of the largest independent foodservice distributors in the country. A third generation, family owned business, Maines has a 90-year history of helping restaurant owners and managers maximize the performance of their restaurants and foodservice operations. Their customized distribution process and many other consultative services result in lowering costs and improving profitability for their customers. In addition to the Broadline and customized foodservice divisions, Maines offers their products through their retail division MaineSource; chemical and beverage equipment sales, installation and service through ServiSolutions; all of the day-to-day and highly specialized produce needs through Maines’ Produce Express; internet based recruiting and hiring services through WyckWyre; internet based restaurant operational tools through WhenToManage; and restaurant consultative services through its consulting division Restaurant Results, Inc. Maines has a revenue base in excess of \$3 billion and their services are provided by more than 2,000 highly motivated associates serving their customers from twelve distribution centers with coverage in 36 states.



Nominations for the 5th Annual Veterans of Distinction ceremony are now being accepted.

Please join Broome County Legislature Chairman Jerry Marinich and the County Legislature on Thursday, May 21, 2015 for a ceremony at the May Legislative Session to honor Veterans from Broome County.

The Legislature will present Certificates of Appreciation to Veterans of Distinction who have been nominated through one of the local Veterans organizations such as the VFW or the American Legion. We have a limit of 15 recipients each year.

Nominations by the local Veterans posts and organizations are due by April 3, 2015.

Our goal is to try and identify both men and women of all branches of service and all conflicts to represent the thousands of Veterans residing in Broome County.

Sincerely,

Christopher Dziedzic
Legislative Assistant, Broome County Legislature
P.O. Box 1766
Binghamton, NY 13902
607-778-2129
cdziedzic@co.broome.ny.us

SUNY Broome Veterans Services Center

SUNY Broome gathered on Veterans Day to honor the contributions of veterans, both on campus and in the nation.

The campus also celebrated the opening of its new Veterans Resource Center. Located in the Student Services Building, it provides a place where veterans can go if they need help navigating their educational benefits or other issues, meet with peer advisors or socialize with each other in a safe and supportive space. The center is equipped with a computer and printer stations, for help in research and homework assignments.



“Statistics show that if we help veterans transition from the military to college life, they are more successful in their academic careers,” said SUNY Broome President Kevin E. Drumm.

Veterans can feel out of place when they return to civilian life, especially if they have spent years away from the classroom, Drumm noted. Having a space to themselves – where they can focus on academics and connect with others who have undergone similar experiences – can make a difference. Broome County provided 80 percent of the funding for the project, with the college picking up the remainder.

“It’s been one of my priorities to do everything possible for our veterans,” said Broome County Executive Debbie Preston, a SUNY Broome grad whose husband and family members have served in the armed forces. “We want to provide you with every opportunity to succeed after your service in the military.”

SUNY Broome owes its existence to veterans, who were given access to education thanks to the G.I. Bill. After the end of World War II, New York State developed five Institutes of Applied Arts and Sciences – which later became the core of the new community college system. Binghamton was among those five, the very first community colleges in the state.

The G.I. Bill ultimately transformed the world of higher education, President Drumm noted. “Before then, mostly wealthy 18-year-olds went to college,” he said.

Sully Shoemaker is one of approximately 95 students using veterans’ education benefits at SUNY Broome. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, she served in Okinawa, Japan, from 2008 to 2012. A native of Fairfax, Virginia, she wasn’t a star student in her youth and graduated high school a year late. In joining the military, she was inspired by her sister, who was in Air Force training when the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks took place.

“I joined because I wanted to make something of myself,” she said, noting that she met her husband – also a Marine and a veteran of Afghanistan – in Japan. He now works as a Binghamton firefighter and the two have a young child. As a petite woman, Shoemaker acknowledges that she might not fit the image most people have of a Marine. When her husband wears his Marine Corps sweatshirt in town, passersby often thank him for his service – not realizing that his wife also served. But while she might not receive a show of appreciation from strangers, she is grateful for the Veterans Resource Center and the services it provides. On Veterans Day she offered her thanks to all those who made it possible. “I accept the Veterans office as my token of appreciation,” she said. “These generous individuals are what make the county great.”

Purple Heart County

Continued from Page 1



traffic information provided by the Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study (BMTS). They were paid for using Broome County Veterans Trust funds, produced by Corcraft based in Menands, NY, and installed by the New York State Department of Transportation.

“The Department of Transportation is honored to participate in the dedication of this segment of highway to Purple Heart recipients,” said DOT Regional Director Jack Williams. “As people drive on our highways, they too can honor these men and women by driving with care and respect.”

To learn more about which municipalities have been designated as Purple Heart supporters, please visit the Military Order of the Purple Heart’s website:

www.purpleheart.org.



Coming Soon!!

PTSD Support & Education Group



PTSD: What is it? Symptoms, what are they? How can I manage it more effectively?

How can I help my partner or loved one cope? How do I cope?

We have tried and true strategies and skills to share that really work! Join us!

12 weeks starting April 2, 2015

The group will meet

Thursdays 5-6:30pm

With Alice O'Brien-Botts, LCSW, MFT

call 607.722.2393 to register

Spouses Welcome



**53 Chenango St.
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607)722-2393**



SECOND HALF OF LIFE

Have you ever asked yourself the following questions?

What is my next step? What is my purpose now?

How can I keep my golden years shiny and bright?

What is there to look forward to now?

Intrigued?

Sign up for the Second Half of Life Group at the
Binghamton Vet Center.

It runs four weeks, each session is one hour in length, there is no age
limit (young or old), and IT WILL BE FUN!

Call 607-722-2393 to sign up. When you call you will be asked
about a choice of days and times in order to make it convenient for
the most people. Partners are welcome too!



53 Chenango St
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607)722-2393

Preston Unveils New Hope App

Broome County Executive Debbie Preston joined Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health Katie Cusano and the Broome County Suicide Awareness for Families and Educators (B.C. SAFE) committee of the Promise Zone, to announce the release of a free smartphone app that is a valuable resource for suicide prevention.

The HOPE app for suicide prevention is available for free on iPhones and Androids.

“Suicide affects more than just the individual and their family, it affects the entire community,” says Broome County Executive Debbie Preston. “We believe having information at your fingertips will go a long way toward preventing these tragedies in the future.”

B.C. SAFE, teamed up with E Base Interactive to design the Broome HOPE app. It was paid for by a grant from the New York State Office of Mental Health.

It’s designed to give users an accessible resource to help recognize the warning signs of suicides as well as the ability to immediately connect to the national suicide prevention lifeline if needed.

“We want to make sure people know where to turn if they feel a loved one is contemplating suicide,” says Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health Katie Cusano. “Many times people ignore the warning signs because they don’t know where to turn. This app will give you all the information you need, so you can get someone the help they need right away.”

The HOPE app is an easy to use resource that provides the user with information on warning signs, what to say, as well as information on local resources. This information is categorized by group as well; the user can choose teens and young adults, adults, or veterans and have instant access to helpful information.

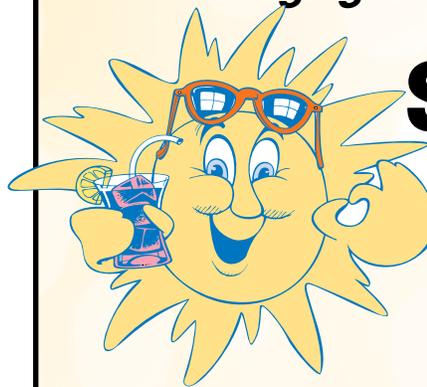
Additionally, throughout the app, the user has the ability to instantly call the national suicide prevention lifeline. The HOPE app is to be used in conjunction with mental health treatment and should not serve as a substitute for working with a mental health professional.

Suicide is consistently the leading cause of violent death in New York, the United States, and the world. It is extremely important to make as many people as possible aware of the warning signs and symptoms of suicide. The HOPE app will do this and will be a huge asset to our community.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Kick off the Summer right, with family, friends, great food and a ton of fun!

**Join Broome County
Office for Aging at our annual**



Senior Picnic &

When: Wednesday, June 24th
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: SUNY Broome
Front St. Binghamton

Lunch will be served at Noon!

We will be enjoying rotisserie chicken with all the picnic fixings and strawberry shortcake for dessert!

\$4.00 Contribution for Lunch

VETERANS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

LIST OF PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

1st Thai Basil Restaurant	Endwell Chinese Buffett	Precision Bluing
21st Century Pools and Spas	En-Joie Golf Course	Prestige Corporate Studio
88 B.C. Building Supplies Inc.	Far East	Professional Home Inspection Service
A Frame Shoppe, Inc.	Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena	Pudgies Pizza Pasta and Subs
Acacia an Aveda SalonSpa	Front Street Ink	Purrfect Pet Grooming Salon
Accupuncture Center	Fuji San Japanese Restaurant	Quality Steam Cleaning
Accurate Home Inspection	Fully Involved Entertainment	R&R Construction Co.
Aero Techniques	GEARCOR	The Ranch Bar & Grill
Aiello's Restaurant	Grandma's Pretties Antiques & Collectibles	Regis
All About Collectibles	Greater Binghamton Airport	Remlik's
America's Attic	Haas Landscape Architects	Residence Inn by Marriott
Auchinachie Services	Heritage Self Storage	Riverside Family Chiropractic Office
Auntie Anne's	Hillside Garden Center	Roberson Museum and Science Center
B & G Sealcoating	Holmes Tax & Financial Services	Roberts Eyecare Associates
Barney & Dickenson Inc.	House of Reardon	Root's Tree Service
BC Bicycles	IHOP	Ryno Ink Tattoo Parlor
Belden Hill Golf Club	In the Doghouse, Inc.	Schorr Family Firehouse Stage/ Goodwill Theatre
Belknap Lumber w/ "Kitchen Design Studio"	Insight Archery	ServiceMaster by Burch
Big R & J Exterminating, Inc.	Irish Kevins	Shear Heaven Hair Supply
Binghamton Agway	Ironworks Gym	Soothing Therapeutic Massage
Binghamton Mets	J & R Upholstery	Spot Restaurant
Binghamton Yoga, LLC	Jack's Diner	Stillness and Motion Message
Binghamton Zoo at Ross Park	Joey's Brick Oven Pizza & Italian Ice	Stop & Drop Computers
Bon-Ton	Johnson City Veterinary Hospital	Suburban Septic & Excavating
Books I Should Have Read	Joker's Wild Ranch	Subway
Boscov's Watch and Jewelry Repair	K-9 Design Dog Grooming	Sunset Lanes
Brent Dyer Construction LLC.	Kelly's Tavern	Taj Restaurant
Broome County Parks & Recreation	Knauf Optical	Take-a-Break Restaurant
Broome County Transit	Law Offices of Thomas H. Miller	TGIF Fridays
Brothers 2 Restaurant	Lemongrass Restaurant	The Rose Garden Tea Room
Casey's Restaurant & Bar	Life Fitness of the Southern Tier	Thomas H. Davis, DMD, FAGD
Catalia's Brick oven Restaurant	Little Caesars Pizza	TLC's Pizzeria
Cider Mill Playhouse	Long John Silvers and A & W	Traveling Scissors Hair Shop Inc.
Coldstone Creamery	Loomis Tax Service, LLC	Triple 'S' Blacktop Sealcoating
Complementary Medicine & Healing	Loughran & Loughran	Tuxedo Junction
Cortese Restaurant	Lupo's S&S Char Pit	TYR Travel
Cranes of New York	Macy's County Appliance Service	Uno Chicago grill
Creative Beginnings	Midway Lanes	Valvoline Instant Oil Change
Creative Sight & Sound	Miracles Beauty Salon	Vestal Tile Distributors, Inc.
Critter Care	Mr. Bills Pools & Spas, L.L.C.	Village Train & Hobby
Crown Fried Chicken	New Horizon Eyewear	Warehouse Carpet Outlet, Inc.
Dakota Watch Company	North East Welding & Steel Fabrication	Warner's Gas Service
Danny's Diner	NuWaka Custom Shirts	Wellness Sport and Spine
Deposit Community Theatre	Old World Deli	Wendy's
Dickin Memorial Animal Hospital	Petcosky & Sons Plumbing and Heating	Windy Hill Candle/Candy Land
The Discovery Center	Phil's Gift Shop	YMCA
Downtown Designz	Portobello Row	Zappia Athletic Products
The Drumzone		

To see what discount each business offers, please go to gobroomecounty.com and click on the Veterans Discount Program logo.

Broome County SENIOR GAMES

August – November 2015



- Golf
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Softball
- Bowling
- Basketball
- Billiards
- Bocce
- Shuffleboard
- Pickleball
- Ping Pong
- Disc Golf

The Senior Games help people stay active through fun,
competitive, adventurous athletic events!

Senior Games give people the opportunity to stay fit by enjoying outdoor
and indoor activities while meeting new people and just having fun!

The games are open to anyone 55 years and older.

***For more information please call
(607) 778-2411 or visit our Web site:
www.gobroomecounty.com/senior/games***

SPOUSE SUPPORT GROUP

FOR WIVES/HUSBANDS / PARTNERS OF COMBAT VETS

The purpose of our support group for spouses & partners is to help those who face the challenge (and gift) of loving someone who has been to war. Maybe your spouse or partner is diagnosed with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder., or maybe he/she is just “different” since coming home. Find strength & support from other spouses & partners, and learn about the impact of war and trauma on veterans & families.

Topics include, but not limited to:

- Stress management & reduction
- PTSD & its symptoms
- Warning signs that your spouse needs more help
- How to take better care of yourself and your family surrounding your spouse’s PTSD



**Vet
Center**

BINGHAMTON VET CENTER

53 Chenango Street
Binghamton, NY 13901

Phone: (607) 722-2393
Fax: (607) 722-0413

If you wish to participate in this group or would like more information, please call the Vet Center: 607-722-2393.

Every other Friday 11—12:30pm

If you can't make it, but are interested, please call to let us know when you can. We will add more options if there is interest.

Veterans Newsletter

Broome County Executive Office

PO Box 1766

Binghamton, NY 13902

HELPFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Broome County Veterans Service Agency

To provide assistance in determining eligibility and applying for VA benefits.

Broome County Office Building

60 Hawley St., 4th Floor

PO Box 1766 Binghamton, NY 13902

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

(Please make appointment)

607-778-2147

Binghamton Veterans Center

Providing counseling to combat veterans.

53 Chenango St. Binghamton, NY 13901

Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:30pm & by appointment

607-722-2393

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic Binghamton

Provides Primary Care. Can refer to additional services and provide transportation to Syracuse VA Hospital.

Garvin Building 425 Robinson St.

Binghamton, NY 13901

Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

607-772-9100

Veterans Crisis Hotline

Confidential help for Veterans and their families.

1-800-273-8255 (press 1)

www.veteranscrisisline.net

Text 838255

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Provides information and assist in processing benefit claims.

(Purple Heart Award not necessary for services.)

VA Outpatient Clinic 425 Robinson St.

Binghamton, NY 13904

607-772-3087

NYS Division of Veterans Affairs

To provide assistance in determining eligibility and applying for VA benefits.

Broome County Office Building

60 Hawley St., 4th Floor

PO Box 1766 Binghamton, NY 13902

Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8:30am – 4:30pm

(Appointments (607) 724-1299)

Veterans Home Oxford

Tues. & Thurs. (607) 843-3299