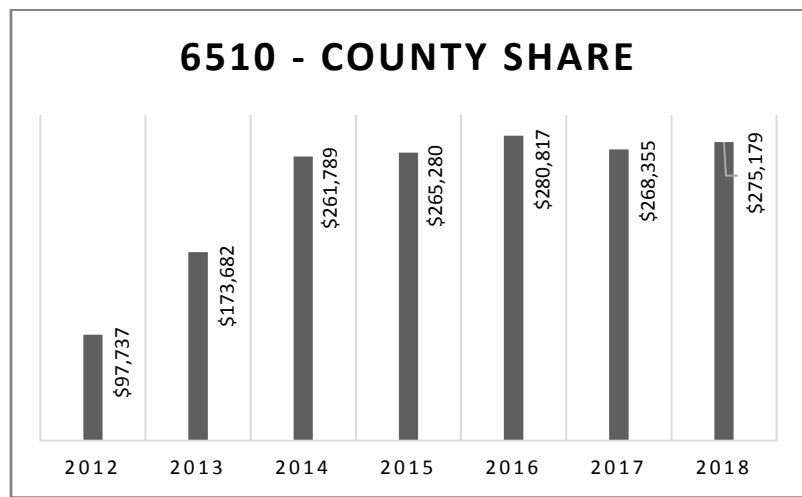


VETERANS SERVICE
BUREAU
6510



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Veterans Service Bureau is to ensure that all honorably discharged military personnel in Albany County and their dependents receive the benefits to which they are entitled under the law. The Department assists Albany County veterans and their dependents in order to receive the maximum benefits to which they are entitled from Federal, State and local government sources. The department will accomplish this while they are ensuring that all veterans and their family members are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve.

WHO WE SERVE

We serve veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon & Grenada, Panama, Persian, Gulf/War on Terror, from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), as well as peace time veterans, their spouses and dependents.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Veterans Service Bureau works with veterans and their dependents in filing claims with various government entities, we assist individuals through the application processes and determine eligibility requirements for these benefits.

The Bureau provides assistance to Albany County Veterans applying for the following benefits:

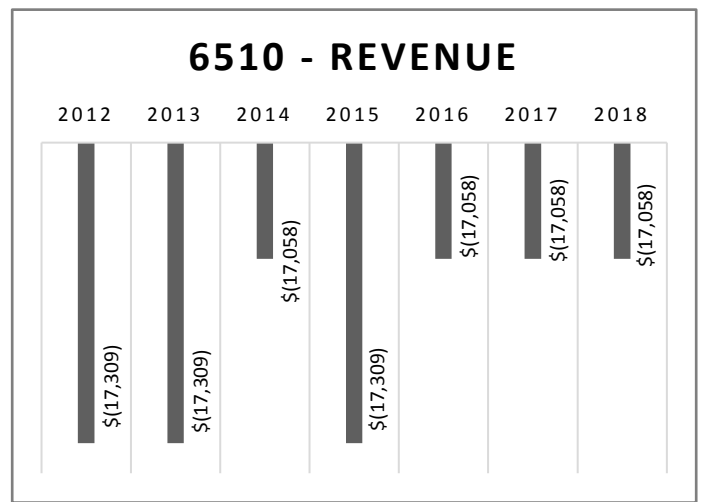
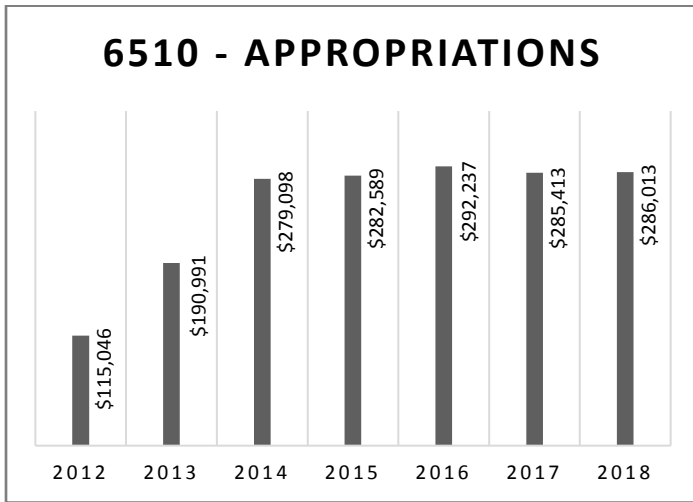
- Return the FAVOR program was established in 2011 with the collaboration of the County Clerk's Office to provide honorably discharged Albany County veterans with discounts on purchases or services at local participating merchants. This outreach has increased services to a large amount of veterans.
- VA Pension payment to wartime veterans with limited income who are permanently disabled and are 65 or older.
- Service Connected Disability Benefits from the Veterans Administration to veterans at least 10 percent disabled as a result of military service.
- Aid and Attendance pension benefits for certain widows of veterans to help pay for their medical or nursing facility costs.
- Assisted Living Benefits, including Blind Annuity Benefits, which pay blind veterans and eligible widowed spouses who have not re-married.
- Home Loan Guaranties by the Veterans Administration of private lender loans to eligible veterans and certain surviving spouses to purchase a home.
- Dependents and Survivors Benefits, including Death and Indemnity, Death Pension and Health and Medical Program for dependents and survivors of a veteran.

In addition, the Bureau provides general information and referral to veterans regarding employment, health care issues and Federal Agencies including the Small Business Association and the Social Security Administration.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Honored eleven deceased veterans through the Honor A Vet Program
- Honored four living distinguished veterans
- Assisted numerous veterans and spouses in submitting claims for compensation and pensions to include Aid and Attendance and Burial Claims

VETERANS SERVICE BUREAU - 6510



2018 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- Continue to support our county veterans and their families by providing up to date information and assistance in filing for benefits they earned for serving our country in the military.
- Continue to start a partnership with county High Schools (Albany High, CBA and Albany Academy for Boys) to use their Color Guards in ceremonies honoring veterans.
- Partner with Albany Fire Department to recruit veterans for possible employment
- Participate in Yellow Ribbon events with the New York Army National Guard.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

There are free job fairs the VSB can participate in;
Soldier On, veterans outreach program;
Share copier (no lease), with the Department of Social Services

KJ served four years as Petty Officer 3rd Class in the United States Navy. After successfully discharging from the military KJ faced a wide range of problems that varied from being a father of four, moving from New York City to Albany County and unemployment. Since KJ's arrival with Albany County Veteran Service Bureau, he has made significant growth and change as veteran and civilian. With the help of Albany County Veterans Service Officer, KJ is now a full time employee working for Albany County. He also was received help from Soldier-On and the Veterans Miracle Center. Due to KJ's mannerism as an honest veteran, he was sought out and nominated by the Veterans Miracle Center staff to win a free car. In addition KJ is currently working with Albany County's Veterans Service Officer to enroll in college and take advantage of his Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits.