



TOWN OF ACTON
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Veterans' Services
James R. MacRae, District Director

November 1, 2021

Greetings Acton and Boxborough Veterans,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service and let you know more about the services available through my department. My job is to inform Veterans and family members about State and Federal benefits, as well as assist those who may be eligible in obtaining those benefits. My primary duty is to assist eligible Veterans and surviving spouses with a State benefit known as Chapter 115 Assistance. Eligible recipients receive monthly reimbursements of medical costs. Please refer to the top of the following page for more information about this benefit. Chapter 115 Assistance is just one of many State and Federal benefits you've earned through your service to our country. There are no costs associated with my services and confidentiality is completely respected. Please contact my office if you wish to learn more.

Regards,

James R. MacRae, District Director
Acton and Boxborough Veterans' Services



ATTENTION VETERANS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS

The following are just a few of the state and federal benefits you've earned. There are no costs associated with my services. Confidentiality is a top priority in my department, what is discussed in my office stays in my office.

Massachusetts State Chapter 115 Assistance for Veterans and surviving spouses

You may be eligible for monthly medical reimbursements if you meet the following criteria:

- Assets for single Veteran or surviving spouse do not exceed \$8000.
- Assets for a married veteran do not exceed \$16,000.

*Assets **DO NOT INCLUDE** your primary home or vehicle*

*IRA's will **NOT** be counted as assets but rather as monthly income*

- Monthly income should not exceed \$2200 for single veteran or surviving spouse.
- Monthly income should not exceed \$2930 for a married veteran.

If your monthly income is significantly less than the thresholds shown above, you may be eligible for additional compensation

- Monthly medical reimbursements may include the following:
- Prescriptions, prescription copays, hospital and doctor copays, supplemental coverage (Medex, Tufts, Blue Cross, etc), Medicare B (currently deducted from Social Security as much as \$148 per month), Medicare D and more.

FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

If you are enrolled in VA health care, you can receive the seasonal flu vaccination at more than 60,000 locations through the Community Care Network in-network retail pharmacies and urgent care partners. VA will pay for standard-dose and high-dose flu shots. Even if you haven't had a flu shot lately, make this the year that you do!

Potential Flu vaccination options include:

- Costco, CVS, Kroeger, WalMart, Safeway, Wegmans or Urgent Care- free of charge, no co-pay with Veteran ID.
- Or contact the Office of Community Care National Contact Center to find a location at 1-877-881-7618.

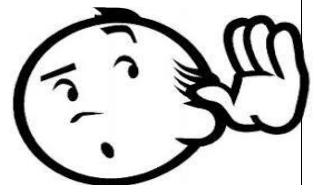
Enrolled Veterans can visit <https://www.va.gov/communitycare/flushot.asp> to find locations to get a no-cost flu shot.

V.A. DISABILITY CLAIMS FOR HEARING LOSS AND TINNITUS

Was your job in the military directly related to loud noise exposure? If the answer is yes there may be additional benefits available to you. If the V.A. awards a Veteran hearing loss it is usually a 0% disability rating. This 0% rating entitles you to free hearing aids and batteries at **NO COST TO YOU**.

If the V.A. awards a Veteran tinnitus, a high pitched ringing that doesn't have to be constant, it will be a disability rating of 10%. Currently, any Veteran with a 10% rating from the V.A. receives a monthly award of \$152.64. (starting December 1st, 2021.) V.A. disability is **TAX EXEMPT**.

Please contact my office to learn more.



VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVATIONS IN ACTON AND BOXBOROUGH

Veterans Day in Acton

Veterans Day Ceremony will be observed on Thursday, November 11th at 11am. Please park behind Town Hall or behind the Fire Station. The ceremony will take place outdoors (weather permitting) by the Isaac Davis monument on the town common. In the event of inclement weather we will move the ceremony inside town hall. All are encouraged to attend.

Veterans Day in Boxborough

The Boxborough Veterans Tribute Committee cordially invites you to attend the 2021 Veterans Day Ceremony on Thursday, November 11th at 11:00am. The ceremony will take place at the Sargent Memorial Library, 427 Massachusetts Avenue. Thanks to the generosity of Boxborough residents and local businesses, we will also be dedicating the recently completed monument which stands on the site as a tribute to Boxborough Veterans and their families. We look forward to seeing you to honor those who have served our country in the armed forces.

Breakfast for Acton and Boxborough Veterans

Friday, November 12th, 9:00am at the Acton Senior Center at 30 Sudbury Road

This is a special event for our Veterans and their spouses or caregiver only. Join us for a complimentary breakfast sandwich and coffee. Veterans Services Officer, James MacRae will be present to share some information. You must register for this event by November 9th. We will have 40 spaces available for Acton Veterans and 10 for Boxborough Veterans initially. Please contact us at 978-929-6652 to sign up.

Bugles Across America

On the first Sunday of every month at 5 p.m., we gather at our War Memorial Site, next to the Acton Fire Station across from the Common, to honor all our fallen men and women. We are not alone in doing this; people just like us are doing the same thing all over the United States at the same time. All are invited to attend.

Check out our website: www.buglesacrossamerica.org/www.buglecall.org. In closing, let's never forget the fallen.





Littleton VFW Post 6556

21 TAYLOR STREET, LITTLETON MA

PHONE: 978-486-3966

***RESPONSIBLE FOR VFW MEMBERS LIVING IN ACTON,
BOXBOROUGH, HARVARD AND LITTLETON***

We are located in the Littleton Depot at 21 Taylor Street which is the corner of Taylor Street and Whitcomb Avenue. A key land mark is our 3" Maxim QF naval gun painted haze gray backed by three flagpoles with the National, State, and POW/MIA flags.

The VFW was established to assist veterans. Our mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts and to serve our veterans, the military and our communities and advocate on behalf of all veterans. The purposes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies.

There are three qualifiers for membership in the VFW, as set out in our By-Laws. An individual must meet all three in order to become a member. They are as follows:

1: Citizenship – must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. National.

2: Honorable Service – must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and either received a discharge of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) or be currently serving.

3: Service in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters*.

This can be proven by any of the following:

- An authorized campaign medal (see a full list of qualifying medals and badges)
- Receipt of Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay (verified by a military pay statement)
- Service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days

Check us out on Facebook! -search Littleton VFW Post 6556

ACTON VETERANS GIFT ACCOUNT

A gift account has been established to help Acton Veterans and surviving spouses as needed for basic needs. 100% of all donations go directly to assisting those in need. If you wish to help Veterans and surviving spouses on the immediate local level please contact my office to learn more.

Eagle Scout Project

- **Who am I?**
 - Tyler Robb, a 17 year old Life Scout in Troop 32 Acton. In an effort to improve my community I am carrying out this project
- **What is my project?**
 - Replacing the flagpole at Woodlawn Cemetery, installing a memorial stone, and installing a wreath-laying path
- **How can you help?**
 - Donations! Monetary or with materials and plants!



gofund.me/f584667a

Last Update:
9/21/21

VETERAN'S RELATED PROGRAM AT THE ACTON SENIOR CENTER



As If They Were Angels (2018, NR)

Monday, November 8th, 1:00-2:30pm

In honor of Veterans' Day, we are showing this documentary about a WWII tragedy at sea resulting in a loss of more than 200 US sailors. More lives would have been lost if not for the brave people from two small Newfoundland towns who launched a dangerous rescue attempt and then took the survivors into their homes. Filmmaker Terry Strauss, whose father was one of the survivors, uses photographs, documents, drawings and interviews to recount a moving story of sacrifice, endurance, and heroism. Narrated by Peter Coyote.

Nazi Theft via Zoom from Home or Senior Center

Wednesday, December 1st, 1:00-2:00pm

Join Jane Oneail, founder of Culturally Curious, for this virtual art appreciation program. From his failed attempts as a painter to his grand plans to loot European masterworks, art played a central role in Hitler's personal life and political strategies. Learn more about Nazi exhibitions of so-called "degenerate art," theft from European churches, museums and private collections, as well as the challenge of restoring works to their rightful heirs today. You have the option of watching via Zoom from home or joining at the Senior Center to watch with a group on a large screen TV. To participate from home, register to receive the Zoom link by emailing the COA at seniorcenter@actonma.gov. *Jane Oneail holds a master's in Art History from Boston University and a master's in Education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education.*

