

2016 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE VETERANS AGENT

The Veterans Service Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M., telephone number (508) 758-4100, Ext. 7. The Commissioner of Veterans Services in Boston approved a Tri-Town Veterans Office. The Veterans Service Office assists veterans and their dependents as stated in Chapter 114-Medical Benefits and Chapter 115-Ordinary Benefits under Massachusetts General Laws. The Agent, files claims, explores every avenue of resources and revenue available. For those unable to return to part or full-time employment due to age, physical or emotional disability, we seek to secure a degree of financial stability that will allow the individual to maintain one's self dignity. Our office continues to deal with people on an individual basis to see that they receive assistance when needed and help them to become self-sufficient in the shortest possible time. The case load has tripled over the past few years; we are assisting more veterans and their families.

In 2016, the office processed numerous claims for federal benefits, including VA pensions, Discharge Requests to War Records, Educational Benefits, VA loans, VA Aid and Attendance, Requests for Medals, arranging honor guards for funerals, Iraqi bonus applications, annuity

claims, VA license plate requests, and EVR verification forms. In October, the Agent and Secretary attended mandatory trainings under Massachusetts Chapter 115 benefits and Federal VA benefits. Every three years mandatory certification is now required for the Veterans Agent.

In conjunction with the Florence Eastman Post 280-American Legion, our office arranged the ceremonies for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

The Veterans Office continues to work in conjunction with Cape Cod Care for the Troops to send care packages for the soldiers serving abroad. If anyone has a relative or friend currently serving in the United States or abroad and would like them to receive a care package, please contact our office during the business hours listed above.

Paula Butterfield, Principal Clerk in the Veterans Office, retired the end of November.

Many thanks to Paula for all of her dedication and assistance with matters concerning the veterans and their families over the past twenty-five years.

Sincerely,

Barry J. Denham, Veterans Agent

Department of Veterans Services

Towns of Mattapoisett, Rochester, and Marion