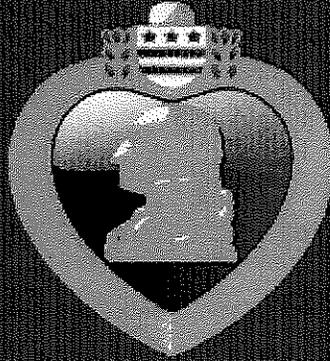


**GREENE COUNTY  
VETERANS' SERVICES  
AGENCY**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**JANUARY 1, 2014 -  
DECEMBER 31, 2014**

# GREENE COUNTY



★ A PURPLE HEART COUNTY ★

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tammy L. Sciavillo  
FROM: Michelle Romalin Black, Director  
SUBJECT: 2014 Annual Report  
DATE: April 1, 2015

Enclosed is one copy of the Veterans Service Agency's Annual Report for the year 2014.

An electronic copy will follow.

MRB: ta  
Enc.

**GREENE COUNTY  
VETERAN'S SERVICE AGENCY  
159 Jefferson Heights  
Suite A104  
Catskill, New York 12414**

TO: The Honorable Board of Legislators of Greene County

The Annual Report of the Greene County Veterans Service Agency for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 is respectfully submitted.

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Michelle Romalin Black, Director

**REPORT OF THE GREENE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY FOR THE PERIOD OF  
JANUARY 1, 2014 TO DECEMBER 31, 2014**

I. Administrative Organization:

Personnel:

GCVSA Director (4/11/11 to present)

Veterans Benefits Representative (Approved 12/2014)

Senior Clerk (12/1/10 to present)

Veterans Van Chauffeur - FT (10/11/11 to present)

Veterans Van Chauffer –PD (6/01/14 to present)

Chairman Honor A Veteran Committee (01/01/13 to present)  
(Volunteer)

Employed by NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs:

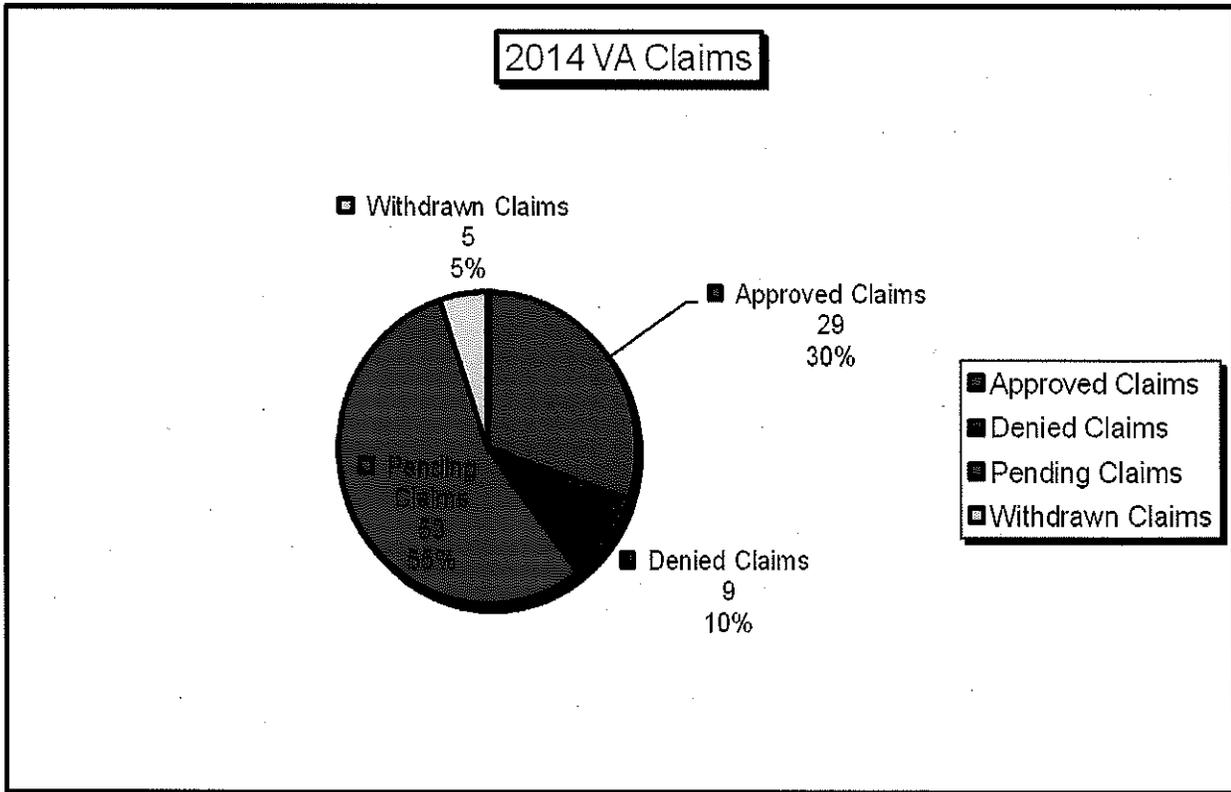
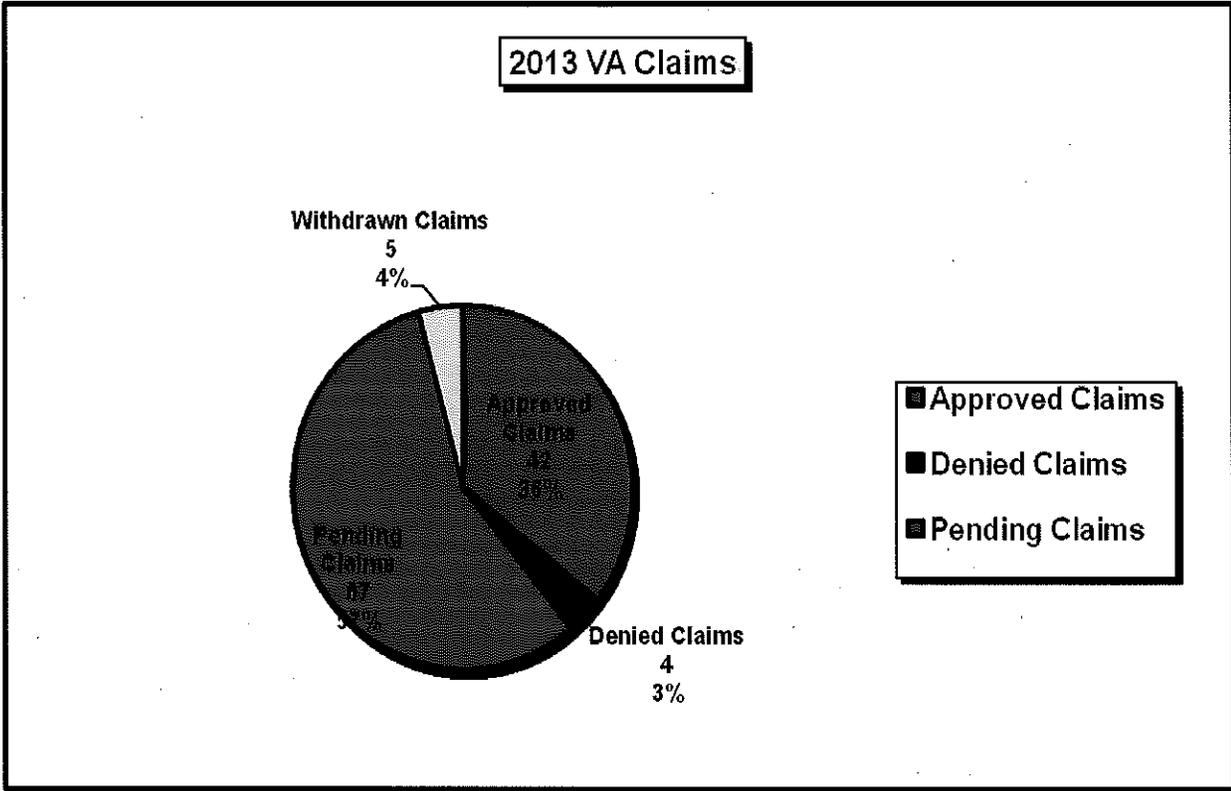
Counselor (Part time) (07/01/2011 to present)

II. Administrative Expenses

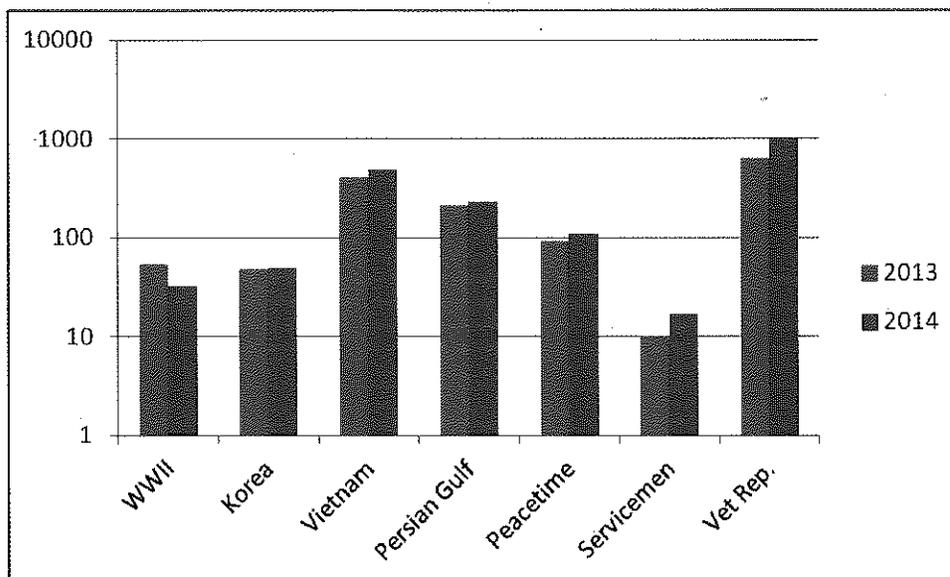
**Veterans Services Agency  
2013 Operating Expenses**

	2013	2014
Salaries	\$ 102,532.11	\$ 107,907.65
Equipment	\$ -	\$ -
Rent	\$ 16,335.60	\$ 16,335.60
Office Supplies	\$ 1,157.25	\$ 1,990.24
Postage	\$ 227.38	\$ 288.71
Repairs	\$ -	\$ -
Travel	\$ 7,662.00	\$ 8,170.87
Emp. Benefits	\$ 69,177.45	\$ 74,703.89
Events	\$ -	\$ 377.89
Insurance	\$ 2,581.29	\$ 1,757.83
Telephone	\$ 2,689.78	\$ 2,689.66
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 202,363.56</b>	<b>\$ 214,222.34</b>
Reimbursements-NYS	\$ 8,404.00	\$ 8,529.00
Operating Expenses to County	\$ 193,959.56	\$ 205,693.34

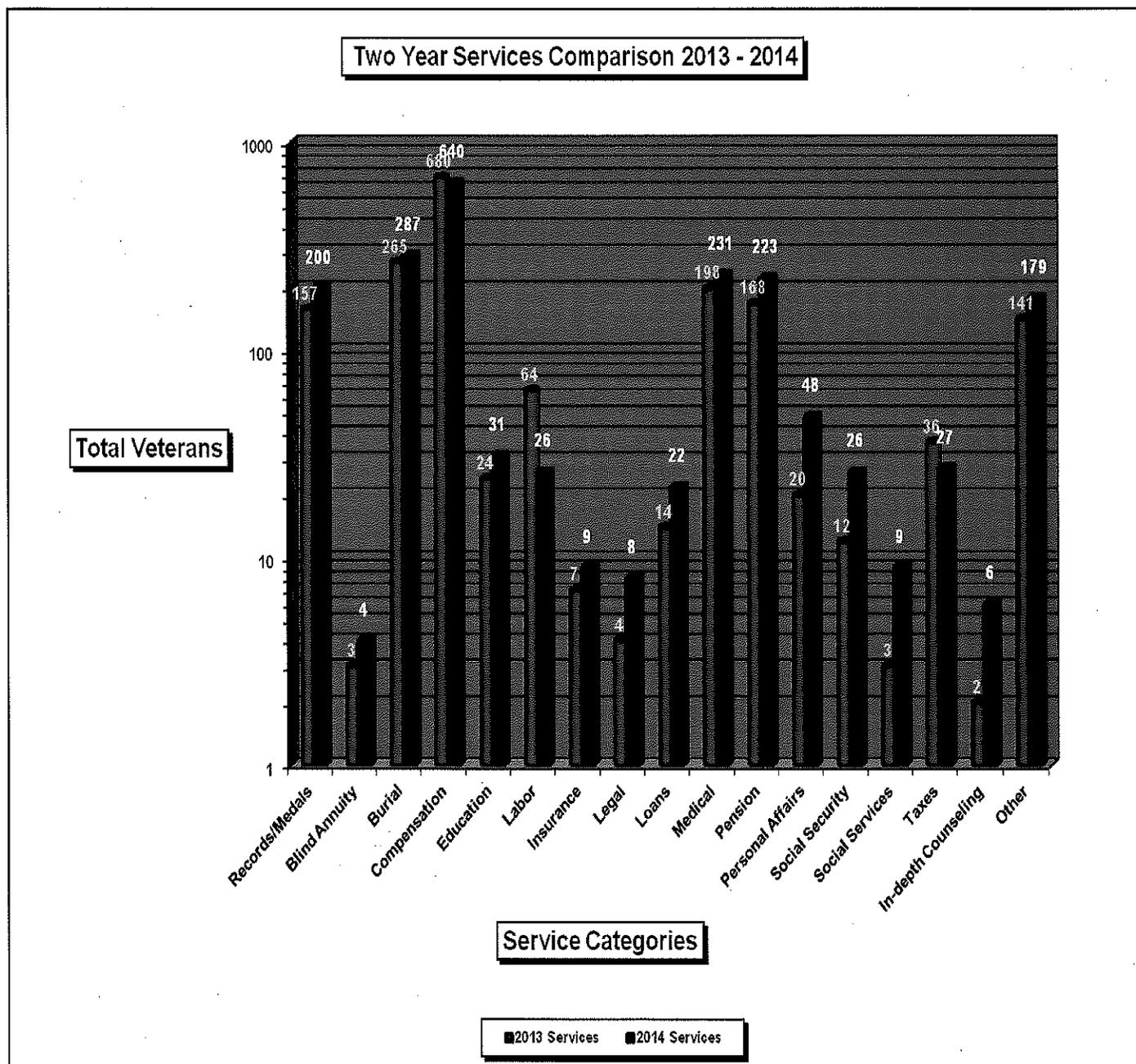
III. Claims and Benefits for American Legion claims only—NYSDVA Rep denied request for NYSDVA claim count for Greene County Veterans filed in 2014.



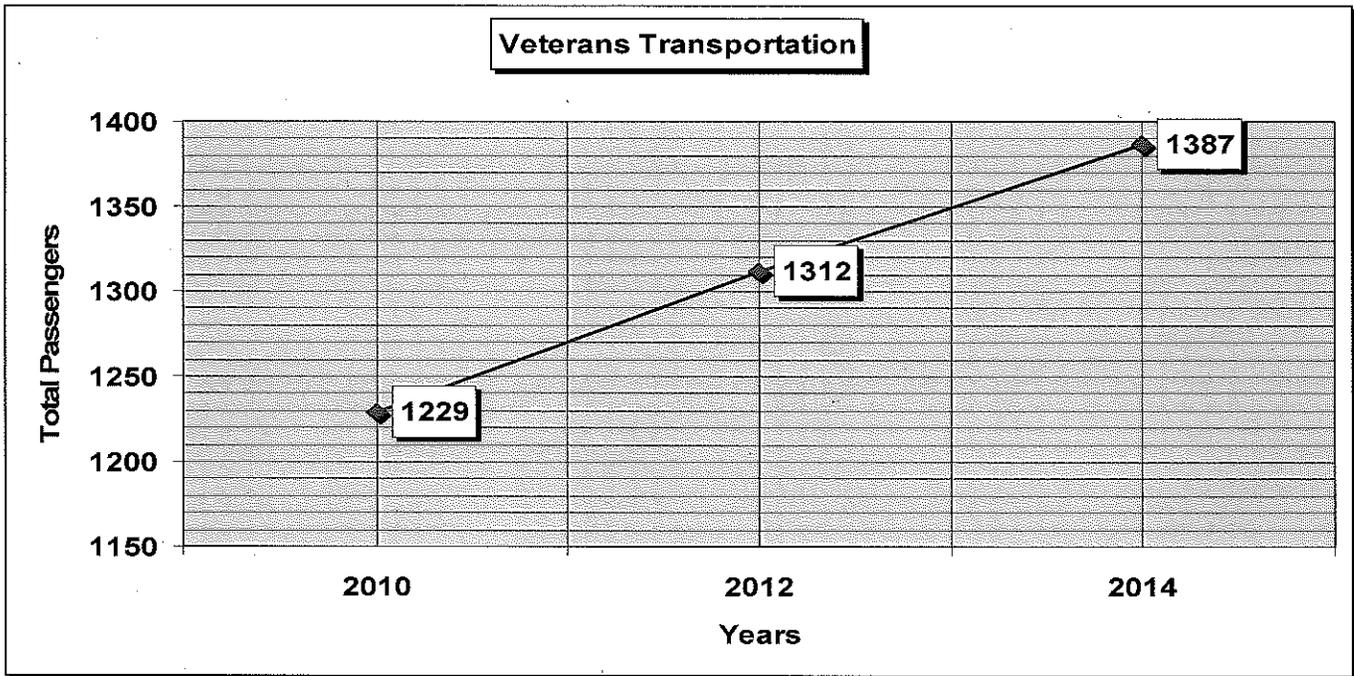
A. Contacts for 2014



B. Service Rendered



C. Veterans Van Service



Greene County Veterans Service Agency continues to expand the Veterans transportation program, providing transportation to and from VA medical treatment facilities for medical appointments, to low-income, elderly and disabled Veterans in need.

We anticipate adding a wheelchair accessible van to our current fleet in 2015, to better accommodate non-ambulatory Veterans wishing to use VA treatment facilities in Albany and Catskill.

2014 ANNUAL REPORT  
SUMMARY

The most recent figures available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) estimates Greene County's veteran population at approximately 4,021. This figure is based on a statistical formula derived in 2007 that uses an assumption that the mortality rate of pre-Persian Gulf Veterans will exceed the number of post Persian Gulf era Military Troops transitioning into Veterans. While this alleged number continually drops in New York State, the number corresponding real population of Veterans using VA services continues to rise, raising question as to the accuracy of the DVA's Veteran Demographics formula.

All DVA expenditures in this report are based on the FY 2013, the most current model available from the DVA. Between 2012 and 2013, Greene County saw a 12.5% total DVA expenditure increase, including: 15.00% increase in Compensation and Pension, 11.66% increase in VA healthcare expenditures, and a 7.51% increase in Education Benefit (GI Bill) expenditures. Please see figures below for a comparison of similar counties for 2013 and 2012:

FY13 Summary of Expenditures by State							
Expenditures in \$000s							
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
CHENANGO	4,553	\$ 21,070	\$ 10,847	\$ 1,009	\$ 380	\$ 8,835	994
COLUMBIA	4,910	\$ 22,284	\$ 9,137	\$ 550	\$ 343	\$ 12,255	1,130
FULTON	4,546	\$ 19,174	\$ 9,502	\$ 1,186	\$ 226	\$ 8,260	950
GREENE	4,021	\$ 23,957	\$ 9,216	\$ 630	\$ 182	\$ 13,949	1,126
HERKIMER	5,387	\$ 23,060	\$ 12,821	\$ 1,290	\$ 277	\$ 8,673	1,273
LIVINGSTON	4,797	\$ 21,793	\$ 10,055	\$ 1,400	\$ 342	\$ 9,995	1,270
OTSEGO	4,361	\$ 21,857	\$ 12,752	\$ 1,038	\$ 372	\$ 7,694	995
PUTNAM	4,749	\$ 23,297	\$ 9,431	\$ 1,946	\$ 432	\$ 11,488	1,166
TIOGA	4,655	\$ 15,975	\$ 8,807	\$ 651	\$ 291	\$ 6,226	1,080
WARREN	6,353	\$ 26,016	\$ 14,025	\$ 1,573	\$ 362	\$ 10,057	1,472
WASHINGTON	5,665	\$ 22,488	\$ 12,355	\$ 1,375	\$ 113	\$ 8,645	1,287

FY12 Summary of Expenditures by State							
Expenditures in \$000s							
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
CHENANGO	4,676	\$ 17,780	\$ 9,619	\$ 755	\$ 221	\$ 7,185	1,002
COLUMBIA	5,080	\$ 19,884	\$ 7,709	\$ 717	\$ 231	\$ 11,227	1,133
FULTON	4,664	\$ 16,086	\$ 8,134	\$ 975	\$ 150	\$ 6,826	961
GREENE	4,133	\$ 21,333	\$ 8,005	\$ 586	\$ 250	\$ 12,492	1,135
HERKIMER	5,529	\$ 20,700	\$ 11,503	\$ 1,026	\$ 249	\$ 7,922	1,267
LIVINGSTON	4,880	\$ 18,901	\$ 8,671	\$ 1,045	\$ 203	\$ 8,982	1,275
OTSEGO	4,490	\$ 17,931	\$ 10,093	\$ 896	\$ 279	\$ 6,663	935
PUTNAM	4,947	\$ 19,466	\$ 8,224	\$ 1,502	\$ 526	\$ 9,213	1,103
TIOGA	4,748	\$ 13,033	\$ 7,580	\$ 543	\$ 260	\$ 4,650	1,093
WARREN	6,531	\$ 21,502	\$ 11,423	\$ 1,177	\$ 406	\$ 8,494	1,417
WASHINGTON	5,773	\$ 19,497	\$ 10,350	\$ 917	\$ 282	\$ 7,947	1,231

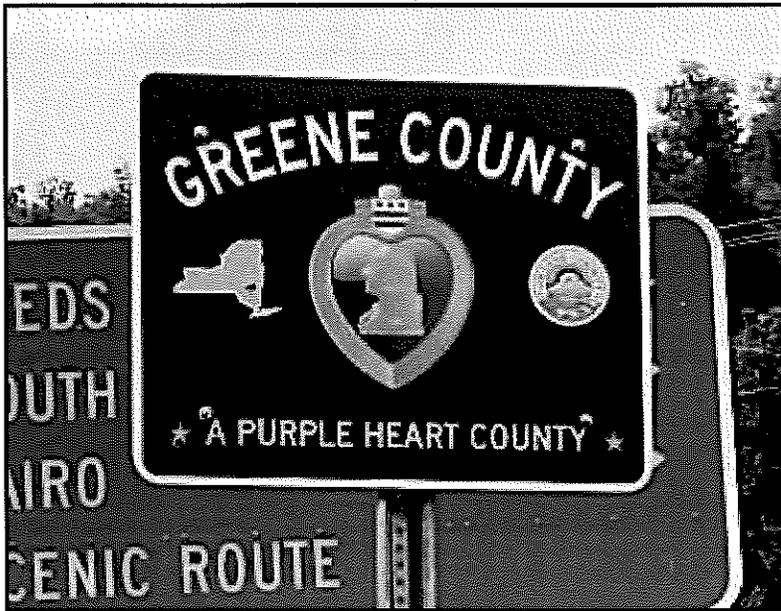
Greene County is performing above average compared to counties with similar Veteran Demographics, and we anticipate higher DVA expenditure into Greene County over the next four (4) years as we bring in our new Veterans Benefits Counsellor and increase our claim count. During 2013, the Agency sponsored two "Honor a Veteran" ceremonies recognizing Greene County veterans for their military service and service to their communities. These events increase awareness for the agency, bring our state and federal representatives to our area to visit, and show Greene County Veterans and their families, that their government and community appreciate their service.



On May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Greene County Veterans Service Agency and the Greene County Honor a Vet Committee planned the annual Greene County Honor a Deceased Veteran Ceremony, hosted by the Greene County Legislature, honoring SSGT Virgil E. Deyo, namesake of the Prattsville American Legion post. SSGT Deyo was a waist gunner on the B-24H Liberator, Killed in Action during World War II. Over 100 Greene County Veterans, friends and family of SSGT Deyo attended this ceremony in his honor. Congressman Gibson delivered the key note address and Assemblyman Lopez's office, the Greene County Legislature, and the NYS Senate presented honors to the family of SSGT Deyo.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Greene County honored its first ever female Veteran of the Year, Mrs. Louise McRoberts of Windham. McRoberts enlisted in 1944, on her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday into the Women's Army Corps. Her entrance to the ceremony couldn't have been more picturesque, as she was chauffeured by Greene County Sheriff Greg Seeley in a WWII era military jeep. Over 150 Greene County Veterans and their family and friends attended the ceremony on Main Street, Catskill. Congressman Gibson, Assemblyman Lopez, Greene County 2012 Veteran of the Year Robert L. Ferrier, members of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Marine Corps League and other Veterans Service Organizations in and around Greene County attended to honor Mrs. McRoberts in one of the largest such ceremonies to date.

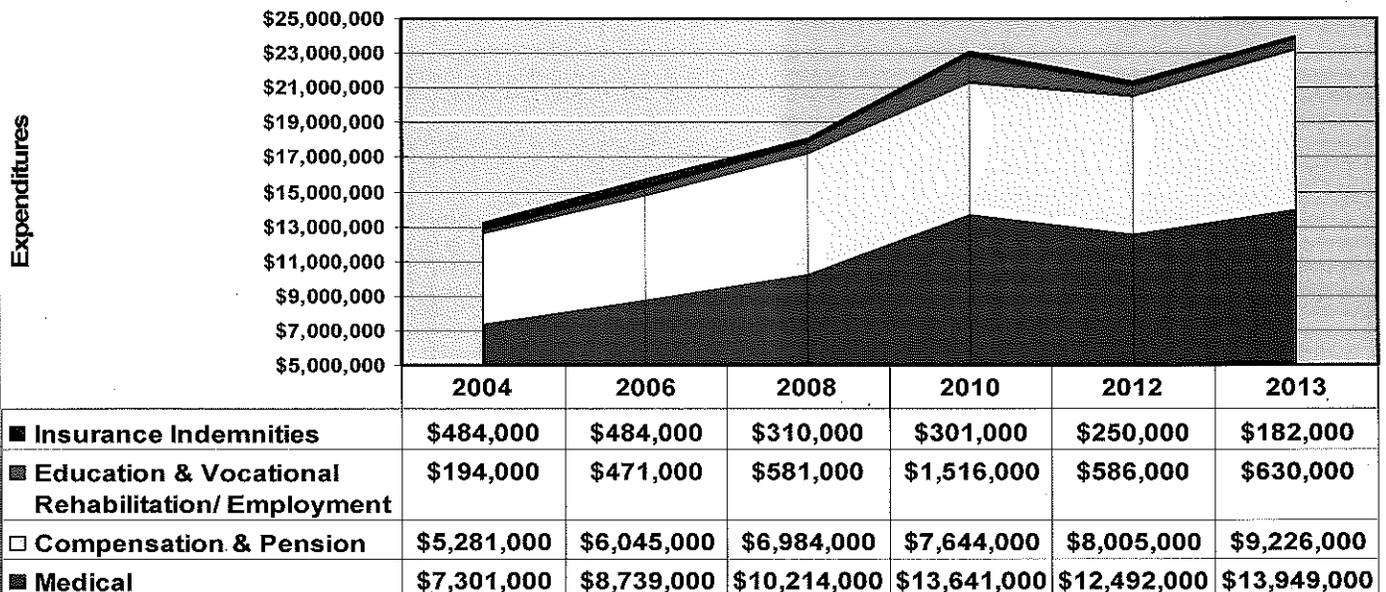




On July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Greene County Veterans Service Agency and the Greene County Highway Department unveiled the Designated Purple Heart County highway signs at a press conference attended by Federal, State and Local dignitaries: Congressman Chris Gibson, Assemblyman Peter Lopez, and Greene County Veteran of the Year 2012, Robert L. Ferrier, as well as several members of the Board and County Administrator Shaun Groden. The event was broadcast on the WRBG Channel 6 evening news, bringing much positive publicity to Greene County.

This year, Greene County Veterans Service Agency increased its total services provided by 7.3%, increased tangible Veterans Disability income by 15%, with Greene County Veterans taking in over nine and a quarter million dollars in federal income—undoubtedly spent in bulk in Greene County. Additionally, VA healthcare expenditures, which provides healthcare to all low-income Veterans, increased by 11.66% - at just under \$14 Million.

### Federal Benefit Dollars Brought Into Greene County, New York



#### Expenditures in Greene County, New York

Federal Dollars Brought to Greene County increased by 410% between 2000 and 2004  
+ 66% since 2004

Note\* 7.7% Drop between 2010 - 2012 coincides with claims filed between 2009 and 2011 and Insurance Indemnities based on Life Insurance purchased upon discharge and collected by beneficiaries at the time of Veteran's death.

Greene County Veterans Service Agency has also added a new part-time position, Veterans Benefits Representative, which is a Grade 10 CSEA position. We anticipate a generous hike in VA expenditures over the next few years, once our new Veterans Benefits Rep has completed Veterans Service Officer Accreditation training and Greene County Veterans Service Agency is able to expand services in the county.

In May 2014, Veterans Services wrote and championed two Greene County resolutions, one requesting Governor Cuomo provide state funding for his Veterans School Tax exemption initiative, and another requesting transparency between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs

In conclusion, Greene County Veterans Service Agency, with the help and support of Congressman Gibson, past and present Greene County board members, Greene County Administrator Shaun Groden, officials at Columbia Memorial Hospital, as well as the entire community of Greene County Veterans and our Veterans Services Organizations, succeeded in keeping the Catskill VA Clinic in the Greene Medical Arts Building in Jefferson Heights – Catskill, after a nearly five-year mêlée with officials at Albany VAMC. However, the Catskill VA Clinic will move into a larger, newly renovated space on the third floor of the building. Finally, Greene County Veteran Service Agency greatly anticipates moving day; as, we will co-locate to a newly renovated office suite next-door to the VA Clinic on the third floor.