



# Eastern Essex District Department of Veterans' Services

Newsletter April 2023, Issue 7

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## Click on Websites Links below:

- Global War on Terror Bridge Dedication Ceremony  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEHjAQM-WGjo>
- Check you VA claim or appeal status

<https://www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status/>

## Contact Information

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[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063636457099](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063636457099)

## THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR MEMORIAL BRIDGE DEDICATION CEREMONY



Former State Rep, Jaime Belsito, Richard Barbato and Former State Rep Brad Hill

On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> the High Street Bridge was dedicated to “The Global War On Terror Memorial Bridge” at the Ipswich Town Hall attended by veterans, their families and state politicians.

The bridge serves as a memorial to all who served post 911 in the Global War on Terror, with special regard to the fallen.

**Located in  
Ipswich Town Hall  
(Bottom Level)  
25 Green Street, Ipswich, MA 01938**

**Phone: (978) 356-6699  
Fax: (978) 356-6615**

**Karen Tyler, District Director  
Email: [kt Tyler@eessexvets.com](mailto:kt Tyler@eessexvets.com)**

**Karen Bell, Administrative Assistant  
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**We Provide Services to six Towns:**

- Essex
- Georgetown
- Ipswich
- Newbury
- Rowley
- West Newbury

**Board of Directors:**

Michael Flynn, Representative Essex

Doug Dawes, Selectman Georgetown

Linda Alexson, Selectwoman, Ipswich

Dana Packer, Selectman, Newbury

Robert Snow, Selectman- Chair  
Rowley

Ron Ross, Representative West  
Newbury

**Eastern Essex Veteran Services-  
Location**

Rich Barbato, Ipswich resident and combat veteran, organized the project with Karen Tyler, Director of Eastern Essex District Department of Veteran Services.

Guest of honor, SSG (RET) Ryan Pitts, a Medal of Honor recipient who served in the U.S. Army in Afghanistan recounted his last day in Afghanistan, which he saw nine U.S. Service members killed and 25 wounded. Pitts said "Courage isn't the absence of fear. It's the ability to move forward in the face of it."



SSG (RET) Ryan Pitts, Medal of Honor Recipient

The keynote speaker, Michael Fisher, MSW, Chief Office, Readjustment Counseling Service, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs said it is important to honor the fallen veterans and to take care of the ones who come home. He noted that Global War on Terror started after the attacks of September 11 in 2001 and became a multi-generational conflict what largely ended in the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021. A soldier in the Army, he deployed in Iraq in the early 2000s. He credited Vietnam veterans who help people like him readjust to civilian society.



Karen Tyler and Rich Barbato

Ipswich- Monday 8:00-7:00  
Tues-Thursday 8:00-4:00  
Friday 8:00-4:00  
Town Hall  
25 Green St  
Ipswich, MA 01938

**Monthly Office hours:**

Essex- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 12:30-1:30  
Council of Aging  
17 Pickering St  
Essex, MA 01929

Georgetown- 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday 10:30-11:30  
Council of Aging  
51 North St  
Georgetown, MA 01833

Newbury- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 11:30-12:30  
Newbury Town Hall  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hearing Room)  
12 Kent Way  
Byfield, MA 01922

Rowley- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday 1:00-2:00  
Council of Aging  
39 Central St  
Rowley, MA 01969

West Newbury- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 10:00 –  
11:00  
Council of Aging  
381 Main St  
West Newbury, MA 01985

In addition, we can do home visits  
for your convenience.  
Please call (978)356-6699 to make an  
appointment.

**VA HealthCare Enrollment and  
ID Card Days:**

Before the unveiling of the sign, a yellow rose was placed on the  
combat cross by a local Gold Star family.

Along with the sign, a brass plaque and combat cross was installed.  
More than 3000 veterans live in Essex County and more than 300  
service members from Massachusetts have been killed.



High Street Bridge



VA Bedford is on-site twice a month to assist Veterans with enrolling in VA healthcare and requesting VA ID cards. Please bring your DD214.

Gloucester VA Clinic  
199 Main Street  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 9:00-3:00 pm

Haverhill VA Clinic  
209 Summer Street  
Haverhill, MA 01830  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday 9:00-3:00 pm

Lynn VA Clinic  
225 Boston Street, Suite 107  
Lynn, MA 01904  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 9:00-3:00 pm

\*Call 781-687-3348 to schedule an appointment\*\*

## COMPACT ACT-SUICIDAL CRISIS COVERAGE

Effective January 17<sup>th</sup>, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost-including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days.

Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA System to use this benefit. Eligible individuals include veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Former members of the armed forces who were victims of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed services are eligible.

The expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost care to Veterans in time of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in the VA.

Over the past year, the VA has announced or continued several additional efforts to end Veteran suicide, including, establishing 988 (the press 1) as a way for Veterans to quickly connect with caring, qualified crisis support 24/7, conducting an on-going public outreach effort on fireman suicide prevention and lethal means safety, and a national Veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign “Don’t Wait, Reach Out”





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## ABOUT VA DISABILITY RATINGS/CHECKING VA CLAIM APPEAL STATUS

The VA assigns you a disability rating based on the severity of your service-connected condition. The VA expresses the rating as a percentage, representing how much your disability decreases your overall health and ability to function.

The VA uses your disability rating to determine how much the disability compensation you'll receive each month, as well as your eligibility for other VA benefits, like VA health care.

If you have multiple disability ratings, they use them to calculate your combined VA disability rating.

They base your rating on:

-The evidence you give them (MD notes, medical tests results) and the results of your VA claim exam (if they determine you need this exam)

You can check your VA rating decision and access your disability benefit decision online. <https://www.va.gov/claim-or-appeal-status>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/19/2023 2:00- 3:00 Merrimack Valley Veterans Collaborative is hosting an event on the Pact Act at Chelmsford Town Hall, 50 Billerica Road, Chelmsford.
- 4/29/2023 10:00-1:00 Veterans Northeast Outreach Center is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Auto Show at the Northern Essex Community College 100 Elliot St, Haverhill.
- 5/20/2023 11:00-3:00 Northshore Collaborative is hosting Armed Forces Day Healing Waters Picnic and Paddle at IRWA, Ipswich River, 100 County Road, Ipswich;

Registration Required [www.ipswichriver.org/events/healing-waters-armed-forces-day-picnic-paddle](http://www.ipswichriver.org/events/healing-waters-armed-forces-day-picnic-paddle)

# Memorial Day Events

- 5/25/2025 12:00 Newbury COA is hosing a Memorial Day lunch for Newbury Residents

RSVP: Newbury COA

- 5/29/2023 11:00 Rowley Memorial Day Parade, rally point is Pine Grove School at 10:30 for Veterans, step off is at 11:00, finishing at Town Common for Ceremony
- 5/29/2023 7:40 Georgetown Memorial Day Ceremony at Union Cemetery
- 5/29/2023 11:00am Essex Memorial Day Ceremony at Sheppard Memorial Park
- 5/29/2023 10:30am West Newbury Memorial Day Parade at Town Square
- 5/29/2023 11:00am Ipswich Memorial Day at War Memorial

