

ULSTER COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

Patrick K. Ryan *County Executive*

Mark A. Cozzupoli, *Director*



April 30, 2020

Ulster County Veteran Leaders,

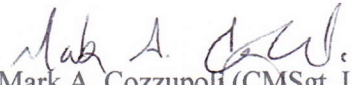
It's hard to believe that I've only had the honor of being the Director of the Veteran Services Agency (VSA) for 5 months, because so much has happened already. I want to thank you for all the support and guidance I've received from my many interactions with you across the County. You've been instrumental in the establishment of the Ulster County Veterans Coalition, as well as the expansion of Veteran outreach and support programs. As our community partners, I have some very important updates and I want you to be of the first to know.

I am proud to announce that Ulster County has secured funding for the Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Program, better known as Vet2Vet! The County is in the initial stages of setting up this widely acclaimed program and you can count on the VSA to be a key component as it goes forward. No one other than a Veteran knows what it's like to be a Veteran, and Vet2Vet is one of the best platforms to facilitate peer support during a Veteran's darkest hours. Much more to come on this program in the coming months!

You should also know the County has committed to expanding the Veterans Cemetery at New Paltz Rural Cemetery, to ensure our Veterans have a dignified resting place for decades to come. The original estimated completion date was sometime at the end of 2020 into 2021, however due to some unforeseen environmental work, this timeline has been increased an additional 12-14 months. At this point, we will continue to push forward because a lot of work has already been accomplished and the location is ideal to have worthy burial grounds. Rest assured that we have a contingency plan to further expand the current Veterans Section, and will continue to provide this service until the expansion is complete.

We've all been through a lot these past months, but please know that the VSA is grateful for all your support, and we are here to help in any way possible. Should you know of a Veteran in need, or would like additional information on these updates, please feel free to contact me directly via email at mcoz@co.ulster.ny.us

Respectfully,


Mark A. Cozzupoli (CMSgt, USAF-Retired)
Director, Ulster County VSA