

I herewith submit the annual report for the Veteran's Services Department for the calendar year ending December 31, 2009.

The Veterans' Services Office is located at 23 Linden Street, Berlin. Regular office hours are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, and also by appointment if needed. To arrange an appointment please call 978-838-2442. You may also contact me by email at: veteranservices@townofberlin.com.

The purpose of the Veterans' Services Department is to assist veterans and/or their dependants in procuring financial assistance, information and benefits to which they are entitled. These services/benefits are relative to vocational or other educational opportunities, medical care, compensation, pensions, burial allowance, grave markers and other benefits granted under existing State and Federal laws. The office of Veterans' Services is a one stop human service office with a top priority of providing services designed to improve the quality of life for every Veteran in Town, their families and surviving dependants.

I would like to take this opportunity to reach out to the Veterans of the Town of Berlin and their dependants. Please do not hesitate to call the Veterans' Office if you are in need of help. I am here to help you. If you have been affected by the tough economical situation we are in at this time, you may be eligible for State or Federal help.

I ask that all Veterans of the Town of Berlin provide this office with a copy of their DD214 (or equivalent proof of discharge) if you have not already. Having this on file will make for a smoother process if a Veteran or dependant needs to file for benefits. If you do not have a copy of your discharge documents I can help you obtain them.

This year was a very busy year for the Veterans' Office. Part of this was due to the suffering economy. The Town of Berlin assisted local Veterans with \$1,350.00 of financial aid. We are able to provide the financial assistance through the utilization of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Affairs Chapter 115 program. Seventy-five percent of these funds will be reimbursed to the Town by the State.

Sadly during the year the Town of Berlin lost four Veterans. They will all be remembered fondly.

Edwin O. Classon
Margaret H. Dayton
Edward R. Mayo
Clayton Thompson

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Selectmen and Town Officials for their support during the past year.

Respectfully Submitted:
Michele Marino
Veterans' Services Officer