### JULY-SEPT 2022 NEWSLETTER

### **OUR MISSION**

Easton Veterans' Services is here to inform and assist Easton veterans and their families in the navigation of applicable local, state, and federal benefits.

## **OUR STAFF**

#### **Cory Ahonen**

Deputy Director of Health and Community Services—Financial and Veterans' Services

#### Lisa O'Hearne

Administrative Assistant/ Transportation Coordinator

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Veterans Property Tax Abatements
- Health and Wellness
- Benefits Overview
- Standing Notices: Easton
   Releases First Phase of ARPA
   Investments and Spending for
   Public Feedback
- In Case You Missed it: PACT Act
- Purple Heart Day: 8/5/22 @ Easton Town Offices 9am.
- Front and Center: Steve Costa, USAF, Ret.

#### **Veterans' Property Tax Abatements**

To qualify, all veterans (and spouses where applicable) must:

- Be legal residents of Massachusetts.
- Be occupying the property as his/ her domicile on July 1 in the year of application.
- Have lived in Massachusetts for at least six months prior to entering the service (spouses exempted) or,
- Have lived in Massachusetts for five consecutive years immediately prior to filing for a property tax exemption.

In most cases a surviving spouse receives the exemption if he/she was receiving it before the veteran passed away. However, surviving spouses receiving exemption under Clauses 22 and 22D lose the exemption upon remarriage.

Abatements range from **\$400** for persons who are; 10% service connected or more, Purple Heart Recipients, Gold Star Mothers and Fathers, or surviving spouses who do not remarry, all the way to full property tax exemption for surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of soldiers, sailors, or members of the Guard whose death occurred as a proximate result of an injury sustained or disease contracted in a combat zone, or who are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death, as a result of combat as members of the armed forces of the United States.

To apply, please contact your Veterans Services Officer or your local Assessor's Office. This is an annual application process.

#### **Documents that may be needed:**

- DD 214 and VA Rating Letter
- Marriage Certificate
- Death Certificate
- Deed to property/proof of residency



For the first time in its history, on Dec. 9th 2023, the Army-Navy football game will be played in New England, according to a joint announcement about the five-year cycle that begins in 2023. In addition to MA, the historic game will be held in Washington, Baltimore, and New Jersey as part of an East Coast tour.



#### **PICTURED ABOVE**

#### 'A Time To Honor'

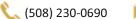
This book has been generously provided, free of charge, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services. Please call us today to reserve your copy, you've earned it.

On behalf of the Town of Easton, we thank our Vietnam veterans and their families for their selfless

service and sacrifice to our country.

**WELCOME HOME!** 









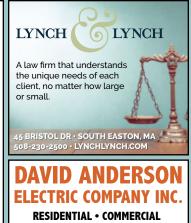
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Thank You to All Members of Our Military in All Branches Past and Present, Living and Dead

Courtesy of The Avery Williams Family Trust











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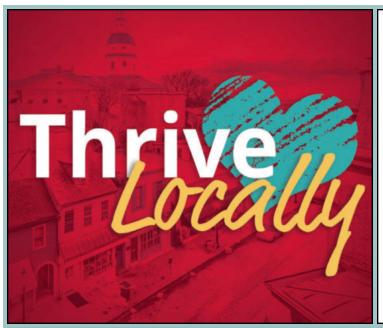
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#### We're on the Web! Visit us at:

http://easton.ma.us/departments/veterans\_service/index.php



## FRONT AND CENTER

In this edition of the Easton Reveille, we would like to call Steve Costa, SSgt, USAF (Ret.) Front and Center. SSgt Costa served with the 485th EIG in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during Operation Desert Storm as a Telephone Switching Craftsman Team Chief.

Costa also served in various locations including Lackland AFB- TX, Sheppard AFB, Andrews AFB- MD, Griffis AFB- NY, Lajes Field, Azores, Kim Hae— South Korea, and Langley AFB— VA.

He retired from the Air Force after 15 years of service and worked in Nashua, NH with the Harris Corporation on a project for the FAA to improve their telecommunications equipment to a digital format.

After that, Steve worked as a contractor for Liberty Mutual Insurance in Portsmouth, NH. He later moved to Easton with his wife, Theresa. Steve currently works as a driver for the Easton Council on Aging and helps out with local veterans events. We thank Steve for his selfless service to our country and to Easton!

If you know someone who you would like included in our 'Front and Center' section, please let the VSO know!



#### EASTON VETERANS DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Veterans Discretionary Fund is reserved for the purchase or reimbursement of expenses required to sustain daily living for any veteran who is a resident of Easton, MA. If you would like to donate please contact us at 508-230-0690 x3.

Please send thoughts, suggestions, and ideas to: Cahonen@easton.ma.us or call 508-230-0690 x3