

## ***How Many Veterans Could be Affected by Changes in Burial Benefits?***

The average cost of a funeral in New York is \$6,700 according to the New York Association of Funeral Directors. Yet burial benefits for military veterans, including those who fall in the line of duty, do not even cover a third of these expenses. In most cases, burial benefits cover less than 10% of these rising funeral costs. An increase in burial benefits could affect over 1.2 million veterans across New York State, providing the families of former military personnel with overdue recognition of their loved ones' service to the country. ***For a county-by-county breakdown on the number of veterans across the state, please see the following report.***

***Capital Region:*** In 2003, there were 90,558 veterans in the Capital Region according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

<b>County</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
Albany	24,874
Fulton	5,598
Montgomery	4,746
Rensselaer	13,910
Saratoga	18,915
Schenectady	13,146
Schoharie	3,156
Washington	6,213
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,558</b>

***Rochester and the Finger Lakes:*** In 2003, there were 99,797 veterans in Rochester and the Finger Lakes according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

<b>County</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
Cayuga	7,739
Livingston	5,465
Monroe	55,507
Ontario	9,407
Schuyler	2,048
Seneca	3,199
Tompkins	5,756

Wayne	8,251
Yates	2,425
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,797</b>

*Central New York: In 2003, there were 81,492 veterans in Central New York according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

<b>County</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
Cortland	4,105
Madison	5,784
Oneida	22,883
Onondaga	37,219
Oswego	11,501
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,492</b>

*Hudson Valley: In 2003, there were 166,248 veterans in the Hudson Valley according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

<b>County</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
Columbia	6,526
Dutchess	24,002
Greene	4,810
Orange	27,005
Putnam	7,404
Rockland	17,544
Sullivan	6,933
Ulster	15,841
Westchester	56,183
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,248</b>

*North Country: In 2003, there were 55,403 veterans in the North Country according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

<b>County</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
Clinton	7,588
Essex	4,651
Franklin	4,582
Hamilton	737
Herkimer	6,733
Jefferson	11,322
Lewis	2,604
St Lawrence	10,019

Warren	7,167
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,403</b>

***Southern Tier:** In 2003, there were 63,868 veterans in the Southern Tier according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

<b>County</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
Allegany	4,698
Broome	18,567
Chemung	9,372
Chenango	5,254
Delaware	4,878
Otsego	5,505
Steuben	10,398
Tioga	5,196
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,868</b>

***Western New York:** In 2003, there were 140,892 veterans in Western New York according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

<b>County</b>	<b>Veterans</b>
Cattaraugus	8,583
Chautauqua	13,695
Erie	84,516
Genesee	5,468
Niagara	20,880
Orleans	3,808
Wyoming	3,942
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,892</b>