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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Picente Urges Cold War Veterans To File for New Property Tax Exemption

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr., today urged Oneida County's Cold War veterans to file for the property tax exemption granted by the county late last year.

"This tax exemption is a small, tangible expression of our thanks and support for their service during one of the defining times of our nation's history, and one that impacted our region so greatly during the time when Griffiss Air Force Base was operational," Picente said. "Our Oneida County Veterans Service Agency is ready to help veterans and their families who have questions about the forms or the process, because we want to be sure that everyone eligible for this exemption receives what they deserve."

The exemption is based on 10 percent of the property's assessed value, with some restrictions. About 8,500 Oneida County residents are eligible for the exemption.

In addition to Cold War veterans and their spouses, a surviving spouse who has not remarried is eligible.

A Cold War veteran must have served sometime between Sept. 2, 1945, and Dec. 26, 1991, and must have been discharged or released under honorable conditions. Veterans who already are receiving certain exemptions may not be eligible for the new benefit.

Veterans interested in applying should call the Oneida County Veterans Service Agency at 798-5830 in Utica or 336-4270 in Rome.

The application is available on line at <http://www.orps.state.ny.us/ref/forms/index.htm>. Veterans who go on line will need to search for "RP-458-b Application For Cold War Veterans Exemption From Real Property Taxation."