

# PRESS RELEASE

April 30, 2025

## **CENTRO TO OFFER FREE RIDES FOR VETERANS** *Centro Unveils Veterans Pass Option for Qualified Veterans*

**Syracuse, NY** – Beginning May 5, 2025, Centro will begin offering a new unlimited ride pass providing free rides for all qualified veterans on its regular bus routes.

“We are thrilled to honor those who have served our country by offering free rides for veterans on our bus services,” said Centro Deputy Chief Executive Officer Christopher Tuff. “These individuals are heroes within our communities, and we know that many have transportation needs. We are happy to welcome them aboard our buses.”

Centro’s “Veteran Pass” will be available to all honorably discharged veterans who apply through their local Veterans Service Agency. Once the application is approved by the agency, the veteran can then receive their Veterans Pass at their local Centro office.

“I commend Centro for introducing the Veteran Ride Pass Program, an impactful way to ensure our veterans have the transportation access they need and deserve,” said Pamela Hunter, New York State 128<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Member. “This is a great example of doing more than simply saying ‘thank you for your service,’ it’s about removing barriers and creating real opportunity. As a veteran myself, I know how meaningful this kind of support can be. I encourage local veterans to apply and take full advantage of this valuable service.”

The Veterans Pass is valid on all of Centro’s regular bus services in Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, and Oswego Counties.

“I thank Centro for introducing the ‘Veterans’ Bus Pass.’ This could make a difference in the lives of many veterans living in Central New York, said William Magnarelli, New York State 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Member. “This program is a gesture of thanks to those that gave much in service to our country.”

“Transportation and obtaining a photo identification has been a barrier for many people who are trying to find employment, apply for earned benefits, attend medical appointments or properly care for their families,” said Anne-Marie Mancilla, Director of Onondaga County Veterans Service Agency.



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"This program will provide an opportunity to our veteran population to obtain another form of identification and have reliable transportation."

"We are deeply grateful to Centro for investing in our Central New York veteran community through this important initiative," said Alex Behm, Chief Community Officer at Clear Path for Veterans.

"Providing complimentary, reliable transportation ensures that veterans can access medical care, maintain employment, and stay connected to the services they've earned."

Centro provides more than seven million rides for Central New Yorkers each year. For more information on the Veterans Pass program visit [www.centro.org/fares-passes/fares-and-passes/veteran-ride-pass-program/#top](http://www.centro.org/fares-passes/fares-and-passes/veteran-ride-pass-program/#top)

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