

Veteran Newsletter

November 2013



The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame welcomed its Class of 2013 in a ceremony on November 7.

The Hall now has 15 new members joining the 428 other Ohio Presidents, astronauts, and state and community leaders from all walks of life, each of whom represents the ideal of veterans continuing to serve their fellow citizens after they've taken off their uniforms.

Welcome to the Ohio Department of Veterans Services e-newsletter! The newsletter is a key source of information about issues of interest to our community of veterans in Ohio.

We thank you for your service to our country. Because you're a veteran, you've earned a number of benefits that you may not be aware of. Most of these benefits originate at the federal level with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Based on the time you served, you may be eligible for compensation for injuries, health care, educational assistance, home loans or many other benefits. There are also a number of state benefits available to Ohio veterans, to include the Ohio Veterans Bonus as well as direct financial assistance from the county to veterans in need.

The place to find out what you've earned and to apply is your county veterans service office. You can locate yours in the interactive map on our department home page, www.ohiovet.gov, or by calling 1-877-OHIO-VET (1-877-644-6838).

We will continue to provide you this newsletter each month. We hope it's of value to you and your family.

Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Celebrates 15 Distinguished Veterans... Governor John R. Kasich and Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell inducted the 15 new members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2013 in a November 7 ceremony at Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in Columbus.

"For those who serve and for those who give of themselves to others, there is a reward yet to come that's much greater than any plaque, any salute, any type of honor here on Earth," Governor Kasich said. "They're lucky, they're fortunate to answer the call."

Have questions about veterans benefits? Call 1-877-OHIOVET (1-877-644-6838)



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The Hall of Fame honors Ohio veterans who, after their military service, put their skills and abilities to work in their local communities. They are veterans who have continued to serve others, and by their continued service and positive accomplishments, inspired their fellow citizens.

A plaque bearing the names of this year's inductees is on display at the Ohio Statehouse. In May, the inductees will be formally enshrined when the plaque is permanently installed in the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame exhibit at the Riffe Center in downtown Columbus. The induction of this year's class makes a total of 443 members in the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, including Presidents, astronauts, local businesspeople, teachers and citizens of all walks of life.



Deserving veterans can be nominated now for induction into the Class of 2014. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2014. Information and a nomination form can be found at: http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame.aspx

[Photos](#) or a [video](#) of this year's induction into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame are available for viewing. A brief profile of each new member is in this [news release](#).



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The members of the Class of 2013 are:

ANNA K. BEALL

Dayton, Montgomery County - United States Army Nurse Corps Veteran – World War II

STEPHEN J. BUTCHER

Pataskala, Licking County – Ohio Air National Guard Veteran – Persian Gulf War Era

ROBERT E. DERR

Cincinnati, Clermont County – United States Marine Corps Veteran – Korean and Vietnam War Era

HARRY A. DONOVAN

Fairlawn, Summit County – United States Navy Veteran – World War II

CARLOS M. EASTERDAY

Pleasant City, Noble County – United States Army Veteran – Korean War

ROGER H. GARDNER

Warren, Trumbull County – United States Army/Ohio Army National Guard Veteran – Korean War Era and Vietnam War Era

DAVID R. HINDS

Dublin, Delaware County – United States Marine Corps Veteran – Vietnam War

ALEXANDER P. KISH

Newton Falls, Trumbull County – United States Army Veteran – Korean War

JOHN F. KUFFNER (deceased)

St. Mary's, Auglaize County – United States Navy Veteran – World War II

HARRY A. SEIFERT, JR.

Kettering, Montgomery County – United States Army Veteran – Cold War

RONALD J. SEMAN

Parma, Cuyahoga County – United States Air Force Veteran – Korean War

SHARON A. R. STANLEY

Circleville, Ross County – United States Army Veteran – Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Global War on Terrorism

CARL W. SWISHER

Columbus, Franklin County – United States Navy Veteran – Vietnam War Era

JOSEPH K. VRABEL (deceased)

Poland, Mahoning County – United States Army Veteran – Korean War

JOHN B. WILLIAMS

Bexley, Franklin County – United States Army Veteran – World War II



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Ohio Veterans Bonus Ends December 31 for Gulf War Era Vets....



There is little more than a month left for veterans who served anywhere in the world during the Persian Gulf War to apply for the Ohio Veterans Bonus – **the deadline for applications for veterans of the Persian Gulf War era is December 31, 2013.**

If you served during this time – or know anyone who did – *PLEASE* make them aware of the deadline.

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is available to veterans who served anywhere in the world during the time of the Persian Gulf War or the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Service must have been for more than 90 days active duty, not for training. Eligibility periods and deadlines are below:

- Persian Gulf: eligible period is from August 2, 1990 through March 3, 1991 (**deadline to apply is December 31, 2013**);
- Afghanistan: eligible period is, from October 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President; and for
- Iraq: eligible period is from March 19, 2003 to December 31, 2011 (**deadline to apply is December 31, 2014**).
- Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents currently.

The bonus pays \$100 a month to veterans who served in the Persian Gulf theater, or in the countries of Afghanistan or Iraq, up to a maximum of \$1,000. For veterans who served anywhere else in the world during the eligible periods, the payment is \$50 a month up to a \$500 maximum. Veterans medically discharged due to injuries sustained in combat can receive \$1,000, plus up to \$500 for months of service elsewhere. Family members of those killed in action or who died from disease as a result of their in-theater service can receive a bonus of \$5,000 plus whatever the service member was eligible for, up to a total of \$6,500.



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Anyone needing more information or who want to apply can call toll-free to 1-877-OHIO VET (1-877-644-6838) option 2, or see:

https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web

Veterans can also apply for the Bonus at their local Veterans Service Office in their home county. To find the location of your county office, see the Ohio map and select the appropriate county at:

<http://dvs.ohio.gov>

Your County Veterans Service Office can also help you determine what other federal and state benefits you're eligible for and help you apply for them.

Mobile App Puts Benefits in the Palm of a Vet's Hand...

Access to benefits for Ohio veterans has entered the digital age, thanks to the launch of a mobile app by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS).

"This app literally puts veterans' benefits in the palm of their hand," ODVS Director Tim Gorrell said. "It enables them to find out very quickly what major benefits they've earned and how and where to apply for them."

The app provides an overview of the principal benefits available to veterans and how to apply for them. In the case of most federal and state benefits, this takes the form of a link to a portion of the app where contact information is available for each of Ohio's county veterans' service offices by name, zip code or location. There is also a map feature and directional information. The same contact, map and directional information is available for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities in the state.

The app is available, at no cost, from the Google Play and iTunes stores, by searching for the keyword, "Ohiovet." The ODVS web site, www.ohiovet.gov, contains a link to the stores. The app is compatible with Android and iOS devices.





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Ohio Veterans Home Celebrates an Anniversary...

On November 19, 1888 - exactly 25 years after the Gettysburg Address was delivered by Abraham Lincoln, the President who pledged to care for "those who had borne the battle" in the Civil War - the Ohio Soldiers and Sailors Home was dedicated in Sandusky. A special ceremony this November 19 marked the event, with proclamations from the Governor and federal and state legislators, guest speakers, and a look back in pictures at the facility's history.



In the 125 years since its founding, what became the Ohio Veterans Home - Sandusky has been expanded from 19th century cottages to late 20th century nursing facilities to care for wartime veterans of all branches. The Home today consists of three nursing home wings and a domiciliary wing for those who are able to live more independently, to include a central Soldier's Hall for events as well as dining and recreation areas, all of which undergo frequent modernizations.

The network of care was further expanded in 2003 with the dedication of second home, the Ohio Veterans Home – Georgetown.

The mission of the Homes today is what it was 125 years ago, and will remain in perpetuity through the efforts of its dedicated staff and resident volunteers....to serve those who have served.

Jobs for Veterans Update...

On the following pages is information we hope that everyone is sharing with other Ohio veterans – the latest information on job-seeking strategies for veterans. There is some new information we share here each month, just as we believe there's also a new veteran each month in need of it.



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Companies Looking to Hire Veterans: Ohio veterans stand to benefit from the fact that many national companies with operations in the state have stepped up their previously-announced commitments to hire veterans to work in many different parts of their businesses. They include AT&T, Chase Bank, GE, Home Depot, Starbucks, Walmart, Verizon, and Xerox. Information on current jobs is available on the individual company web sites; go to www.google.com to search by company name.

The Ohio insurance industry has 17,000 new jobs to fill in many different areas. These jobs are available in insurance companies all around the state. For more information, see: <http://insurancecareers.org/veterans>

Help for Employers to Hire Veterans: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is tackling the mission of helping veterans find employment by reaching out to employers. The agency has developed a Veterans Hiring Guide that provides a central location for information about tools to hire veterans and the business incentives that are available for doing so. The VA's goal is to help employers find job-seeking veterans or to assist employers with their own ongoing efforts at veteran hiring programs. The guide also includes resources for employers seeking to attract military spouses. Development of the guide was a joint effort between the VA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Departments of Defense, Labor and Education. The Veterans Hiring Guide is available at: <https://www.vetsuccess.va.gov/public/employers.html>

Finding Jobs Online: You can also look for jobs online. "Ohio Means Jobs" is the state's primary job web site, listing the vast majority of both private sector and public jobs which are open in Ohio. The site is at <https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj>, or simply type in "Ohiomeansjobs.com." The available jobs are posted in the "Job Seekers" area.

Be sure to register and post your resume on the site – and don't forget to indicate that you *are* a veteran. The site automatically posts veterans' resumes first for any job that matches the qualifications they've stated in their resume – so employers who go to the site will see veterans' resumes before they see anyone else's. The resume should be reviewed every month and electronically "updated" – whether any additional information is added or not – to keep it refreshed and at the head of the line for jobs.



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This web site also has an area with other resources for veterans, to include translation of military to civilian skills and frequently asked questions about the process. The link is below:

<http://www.ohiomeansveteranjobs.com/infocenter>



Finding Jobs In-Person: If you want to start a face-to-face job search, there's in-person assistance available throughout Ohio that knows where the local jobs are. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) is in an active partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor to operate Job Centers regionally around the state. Contact information can be found online at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wia/wiamap.stm>

While the Job Centers are open to all residents, but are also staffed with counselors who specifically assist veterans. Their primary clients are veterans with barriers to employment, of which long-term unemployment definitely qualifies.

Counselors can also assist with skills translation and resume preparation – and they know where the jobs are locally. The Job Centers also have resources to assist disabled veterans with qualifying for, finding and keeping meaningful employment.

For a Job Fair, or any Employment Event, Be Prepared for Interviews, and Know Your Skills:

Before you attend any job fair or visit any employer, remember these common tips:

- Have a current resume;
- Have a cover letter that's geared to the type of job being sought;
- Present a professional appearance, e.g., suit and tie, or dress/skirt or pantsuit.

To prepare an effective resume, you have to be able to translate military experience to civilian experience. The Army and the Navy have developed online "cool" web sites that help veterans translate their military skills into terms civilian employers can understand. The sites, which stand for "credentialing opportunities online," allow a veteran to select their military skill code and then see the types of jobs their training and experience translates to, as well as any certifications that are needed.



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There is no Air Force, Marine, or Coast Guard “cool” site. However, the Air Force does offer similar resources in its Community College of the Air Force site, at the Credentialing and Education Research Tool (CERT) page; Marine skills are similar to those found in the Army and Air Force; and Coast Guard skills are similar to those found in the Navy.

The “cool” sites are below:

<https://www.cool.army.mil/index.htm>

<https://www.cool.navy.mil/overview.htm>

<https://augateway.maxwell.af.mil/ccaf/certifications/programs/>

Schools and Companies Offering Job Training: Job training that could lead to employment in the emerging shale industry and in manufacturing is available throughout Ohio. Stark State College and Eastern Gateway Community College offer training targeted to shale jobs. Cincinnati State College offers training aimed at industrial jobs. Siemens Corporation offers training geared to engineering manufacturing jobs. Find out more at the schools’ and company’s web sites; conduct your search using www.google.com.

Hold a CDL? Listen Up...

All Commercial Driver License (CDL) holders in Ohio have until Jan. 30, 2014 to self-certify their type of commercial driving to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, along with the submission of a completed medical examiners certificate. Failure to do this will put holders at risk of losing their CDL privileges, even if they're not currently working in a field that utilizes their CDL.

Find out more from BMV at:

http://bmv.ohio.gov/cdl_fed_regulations.stm



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Veterans, In Need of a Dentist?...



A veteran who is eligible for health care from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now has another good reason to enroll – dental care.

The VA has launched a pilot program to offer veterans already enrolled in VA health care – and who currently have no service-connected dental problems – the opportunity to enroll in a dental insurance program. Coverage begins January 1, 2014, and the premiums range from nearly \$9 up to \$53 per month; co-payments may vary. This program also applies to veterans already receiving VA dental care who would like to purchase additional coverage.

Free dental services will continue for those veterans whose dental issues are certified by the VA as service-connected.

Find out more about the dental program at:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2495>

Veterans can also learn more about VA health care at their local Veterans Service Office in their home county. The service officers there can also help you determine what other federal and state benefits you're eligible for and help you apply for them. To find the location of your county office, see the Ohio map and select the appropriate county at:

<http://dvs.ohio.gov/>



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November Marks Three Holidays Important to Veterans and Families...

Our state and nation paused on November 11 to honor all those who serve, and have served, in our Armed Forces. Those who have served in uniform know that the military is by no means an easy life, even in the best of times. Certainly, since 9/11, our military men and women have been sorely tried by long hours of training and multiple deployments, both in the active component as well as the National Guard and Reserve. But these exceptional men and women continue to serve, and our nation is both protected and blessed by that fact.

Families have always been an important part of military life – there's an old Army saying that the Army recruits the soldier, but re-enlists the family. Military families have, too, been severely strained by the demands of 12 years of war. Yet they also continue to stand strong, maintaining homes, children and countless demands of their time and energy to enable those who wear the uniform to keep serving. In their honor, we celebrate November as the Month of the Military Family.

On November 28, our entire nation will pause to give thanks for the blessings that we all have in the United States of America. Yes, we can all wish for better personal circumstances, but if we look honestly at what we have, in truth we have much to be thankful for. Let us not forget that that very thankfulness is guaranteed by those we celebrated on November 11 – without our military and our veterans, none of us would have the freedom we'll celebrate on Thanksgiving to gather together with family and friends and share good food and good wishes.



We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. And we want to say a very heart-felt thank you to those who give us the freedom to live and celebrate as we choose – as you, too, gather with your comrades in mess halls and on hilltops, ships and planes across the globe – and to all those who stand beside you.



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Veteran Newsletter Puzzle...

Below is our latest puzzle. Its theme, "Military Branches" was chosen in honor and celebration of Veterans Day. Thank you, veterans, for your service to our country. See instructions below and enjoy the process of solving the puzzle!

"Military Branches" Puzzle

Eight clues are arranged randomly below. Each clue's answer contains one of the words to the right. From there, enter each answer to fill in the empty spaces. Once all answers have been correctly entered, the boxed spaces, when read top-to-bottom, left-to-right, will contain a short phrase, the answer to this month's puzzle.

Clues

- Place to watch the Buckeyes (2 wds)
- Quiet types
- Roman arenas
- Confidential
- Female flight attendant
- Packs like sardines
- Of, like, or befitting royalty; In a royal way
- Herb containing white flowers known to ease sharp pains

	I	T	C	H					
	L	O	S	S					
	L	I	N	E					
	W	A	R	D					
	R	O	V	E					
	I	O	T	A					
	P	O	R	T					
	C	R	O	W					