



May 2014



Veteran Newsletter



The annual Governor's Wreath-Laying Ceremony will be held in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium at noon on Thursday, May 22. The State of Ohio will honor each military service-member killed in action during the past year. See story on page 3.

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 Class of 2013 Marks Enshrinement...

The 15 members of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2013 were formally enshrined in the Hall during a May 8 ceremony at the Riffe Center in Columbus where a plaque was unveiled bearing each of their names.

The plaque is permanently mounted on the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame display on the ground floor of the Riffe, opposite the Ohio Statehouse.

Former Senator Richard Finan, a member of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame, represented the Hall of Fame Foundation which hosted the

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ceremony. "It's not so much about what we did in the service, but it's about what we accomplished as civilians, he said. "We're all proud of the record of achievement that we had after we left the armed services....we've all made contributions that have left this a better place to live in, and for our families to enjoy."

The statement's been made that every day is Veterans Day, and I believe that, and today is an especially important day," said Tim Gorrell, Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. He continued that he often paused, as he passed the plaques several times in the course of his daily duties, to touch the names. "I wonder what their service was like....and I wondered what did they do as they continued to serve our communities, as accountants, as nurses, as public servants."



Inductee Carl Swisher spoke during the ceremony on behalf of the Class of 2013. He thanked the members of the Hall's selection committee for recognizing his class "for the time spent away from families, serving on many boards and organizations....time spent on organizing Veterans Day Parades, and volunteering at VA hospitals, as many of us did. I could spend many hours naming all the things they have participated in, but time does not permit me to do that."

This year's enshrinement ceremony can be seen in [photos](#) and [video](#).

The purpose of the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame is to honor Ohio veterans who, after their military service is over, put their skills and abilities to work in their local communities – and by their continued service and positive accomplishments, inspired their fellow citizens. Many well-known Ohioans have been inducted, such as Neil Armstrong and Woody Hayes, but the Hall contains many more who are known only for their deeds in their local area. They include law enforcement officers, teachers, and community servants.



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Nominations are due for the Class of 2014 no later than June 30, 2014.
Nomination guidelines and forms, as well stories of past inductees, are available at:
http://dvs.ohio.gov/veterans_hall_of_fame.aspx

Wreath-Laying Ceremony Honors the Fallen...

Each year, the State of Ohio pauses before Memorial Day Weekend to honor the Ohioans of our military who were killed in action in the past year. This year's ceremony will be held at noon on May 22 in the Atrium of the Ohio Statehouse.

SAVE THE DATE

*Thursday,
May 22
at 12:00pm*

sponsored by



Governor's
WREATH-LAYING
CEREMONY



OHIO STATEHOUSE ATRIUM

It is open to everyone in our Ohio Veterans' Community and to the general public.
We hope to see you there.

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New Health Care Opportunities for Ohio Veterans...



Due to recent eligibility changes made to Ohio Medicaid, some former military personnel who do not qualify for VA benefits may be able to obtain coverage through Medicaid. As of Jan. 1, 2014, coverage has been extended to persons and families earning 138 percent of the federal poverty level — which is about \$15,856 per year for an individual.

Last year, it was estimated that as many as 26,000 veterans living in Ohio may qualify for health insurance through the changes in Medicaid eligibility.

If you are uninsured and think you may qualify for this benefit, please visit **Ohio Benefits** at: <http://benefits.ohio.gov/>

Questions regarding eligibility can also be answered through your local department of job and family services or the Medicaid Consumer Hotline 1-800-324-8680.

Iraq Veterans, Don't Miss Out on the Ohio Veterans Bonus...

If you served in Iraq, listen up and share with others who served there – **the application deadline for the Ohio Veterans Bonus for veterans of the Iraq War is Dec. 31, 2014.**

The Ohio Veterans Bonus is available to veterans who served anywhere in the world during the time of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Service must have been for more than 90 days active duty, not for training. Eligible veterans must have been Ohio residents at the time of their entry into the service, and must be Ohio residents currently.



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December 31, 2014 is the deadline to apply for those who served in the country of Iraq. The Bonus remains open for veterans who served in the country of Afghanistan or elsewhere in the world since Oct. 7, 2001.

The bonus pays \$100 a month to veterans who served 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. The maximum individual award for all eligible periods of service is \$1,500.

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 servicemember was eligible for, up to \$6,500.



Specific eligibility periods and deadlines are below:

- Iraq: eligible period is from March 19, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2011 (**deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2014**); and
- Afghanistan or elsewhere: eligible period is from Oct. 7, 2001 through a date to be determined by the President.

Anyone needing more information or who want to request an application 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.



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Jobs for Veterans Update...

Every month, we provide veterans in Ohio with the latest information on job-seeking strategies in Ohio, as well as some of the major places to look. Veterans have the opportunity now to take advantage of many national and local companies who want to hire them. Please read and share this information.

Job Fair Info: Two veterans' job fairs are scheduled in the southwestern part of Ohio near the end of May. Details are below:

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is hosting a Veterans Job Fair on Thursday, May 22, from 9 - noon at the agency's office, 4631 Dixie Highway, Fairfield. Companies taking part include Western & Southern Life; FedEx Ground; Aqua Pro Heating Solutions; and Wellpoint (Anthem). Bring DD-214 or other identification. For more info call 513-785-6500 or go online to: <http://ohiomeansjobs.com/butler>
- A Veterans' Job Fair will be held on Thursday, May 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati. The event, sponsored by RecruitMilitary, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the American Legion, features 70 exhibitors including Convergys Corporation, PNC Bank, Lockheed Martin, Kroger and Cincinnati Bell. Find out more and register at: <https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/cincinnati-veteran-job-fair-may-29-2014>



Companies Looking

To Hire Veterans: Many well-known national companies with Ohio operations are in the market to hire veterans in many different areas of their businesses.

These companies include AEP, AT&T, Chase Bank, GE, General Motors, Home Depot, Huntington Bank, Scotts Miracle Gro, 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 then click on their "employment" or "careers" links.



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The Ohio insurance industry has 26,000 new jobs to fill by 2020. These new jobs are in a number of different skill sets, and are available in insurance companies all around the state. For more information, see:

<http://insurancecareers.org/veterans>

Several state agencies are also currently seeking veterans. Open state jobs can be viewed and applied for at:

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

Many large state employers, such as the Cleveland Clinic and local and regional hospitals, are also in the market for qualified veterans.

Local communities and counties often hire veterans for a variety of public service jobs. Search “employment” on the web sites of local government offices and agencies where you live.

For the most current information on jobs in a local area:

- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services offices in each county, as well as regional Job Centers, can help; see “Finding Jobs In-Person” in this section.
- ***The Ohio Department of Veterans Services’ Facebook and Twitter pages will also post frequent announcements of multiple job openings across the state, so be sure to check them out at <http://dvs.ohio.gov/HOME>.***



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. For example, 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. Veteran-specific information on higher education is available through the Ohio Board of Regents at: <https://www.ohiohighered.org/veterans>



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Finding Jobs Online: Veterans 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 info is added or not – to keep it refreshed and at the head of the line for jobs.

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.





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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. 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/>

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>



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May is a Month to Remember...

Two major days in May are much on the mind of military service members, veterans, and their families.

Saturday, May 17 is Armed Forces Day. It honors those who are currently serving in our Armed Forces, active, National Guard, and Reserve. We are all well aware of the demands that have been placed on our military in the past 12 years, but we also have to be in awe, and greatly thankful, for the men and



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women of the 1 percent of America who have chosen to stand up and defend this great nation so that our traditions of freedom, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness can continue.

But we are also mindful that our freedom is not free. It has been bought and paid for with the blood of generations of our military since 1775. Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, is the day set aside to honor those who, as Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address, gave their last full measure of devotion. Many of us know personally the pain of their sacrifice. We honor and remember them always, and we – and our nation – endure. For that as well, we must be eternally grateful.

This month in particular, take the time not only to thank, but to speak to and learn more about, someone who has served or is now in uniform. Remember, every day is Veterans Day.

